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(12) **United States Patent**
Trebesch et al.

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(45) **Date of Patent:** **Dec. 13, 2011**

(54) **CABLE MANAGEMENT PANEL WITH
SLIDING DRAWER**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **12/655,473**

(22) Filed: **Dec. 29, 2009**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2010/0195968 A1 Aug. 5, 2010

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 12/291,351, filed on
Nov. 6, 2008, now Pat. No. 7,664,361, which is a
continuation of application No. 11/891,638, filed on
Aug. 10, 2007, now Pat. No. 7,463,811, which is a
continuation of application No. 11/492,304, filed on
Jul. 25, 2006, now Pat. No. 7,302,154, which is a
continuation of application No. 10/894,898, filed on
Jul. 20, 2004, now Pat. No. 7,120,348, which is a
continuation of application No. 10/306,816, filed on
Nov. 26, 2002, now Pat. No. 6,968,111, which is a
continuation of application No. 09/649,398, filed on
Aug. 28, 2000, now Pat. No. 6,504,988, which is a
continuation-in-part of application No. 09/490,379,
filed on Jan. 24, 2000, now Pat. No. 6,438,310.

(51) **Int. Cl.**
G02B 6/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **385/135**; 385/134; 385/136; 385/137

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 385/134-137
See application file for complete search history.

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Primary Examiner — Uyen Chau N Le

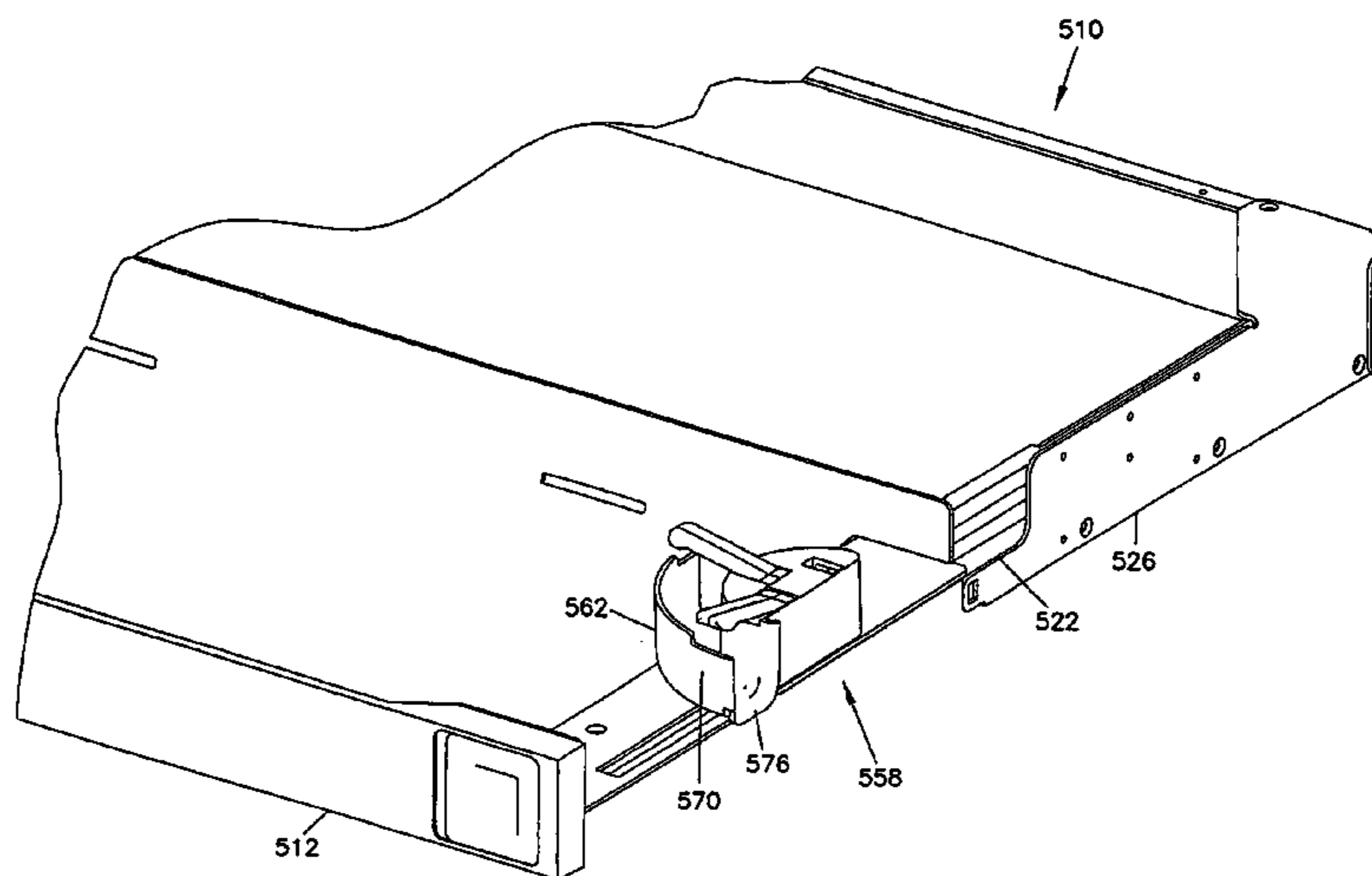
Assistant Examiner — Chris Chu

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Merchant & Gould P.C.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

An optical fiber cable management panel is provided with
slideable drawers and structure within the drawers for cable
management and/or connection to other devices. Tray inserts
drop into the drawers to provide the appropriate management
and connection devices. A movable take-up mechanism man-
ages the cable entering and exiting the drawers at side open-
ings. Stackable pivoting storage trays on the tray insert
include a detent arrangement for holding each tray in a piv-
oted access position. The tray inserts further include a front
key, and a back tab mounting arrangement for mounting the
tray inserts to the drawers, and side radius limiters including
notches for extending over raised portions of the drawer. The
take-up mechanism includes a U-shaped trough section and
cable retention tabs. A control mechanism is provided for
controlling movement of the take-up mechanism relative to
the drawer.

12 Claims, 62 Drawing Sheets



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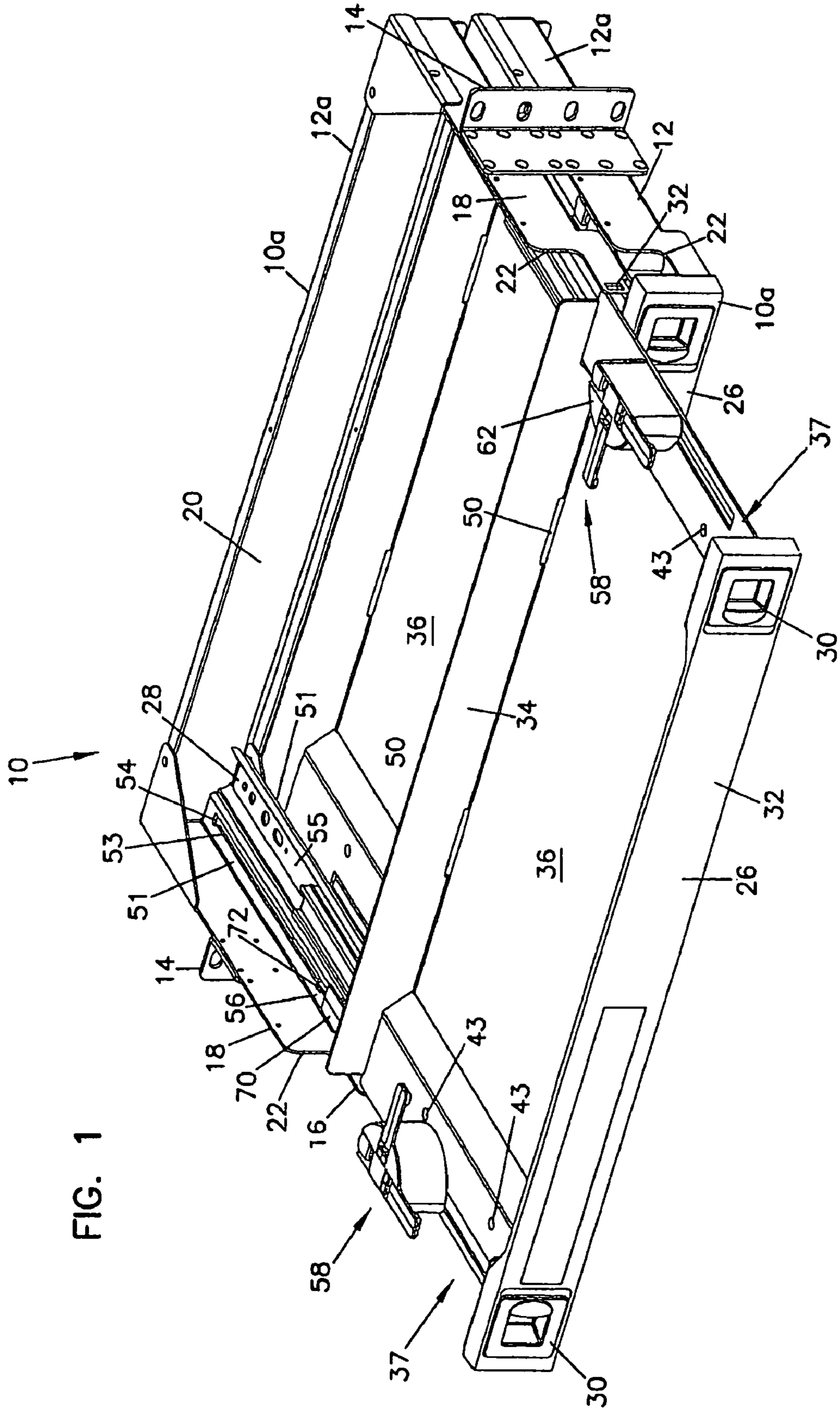
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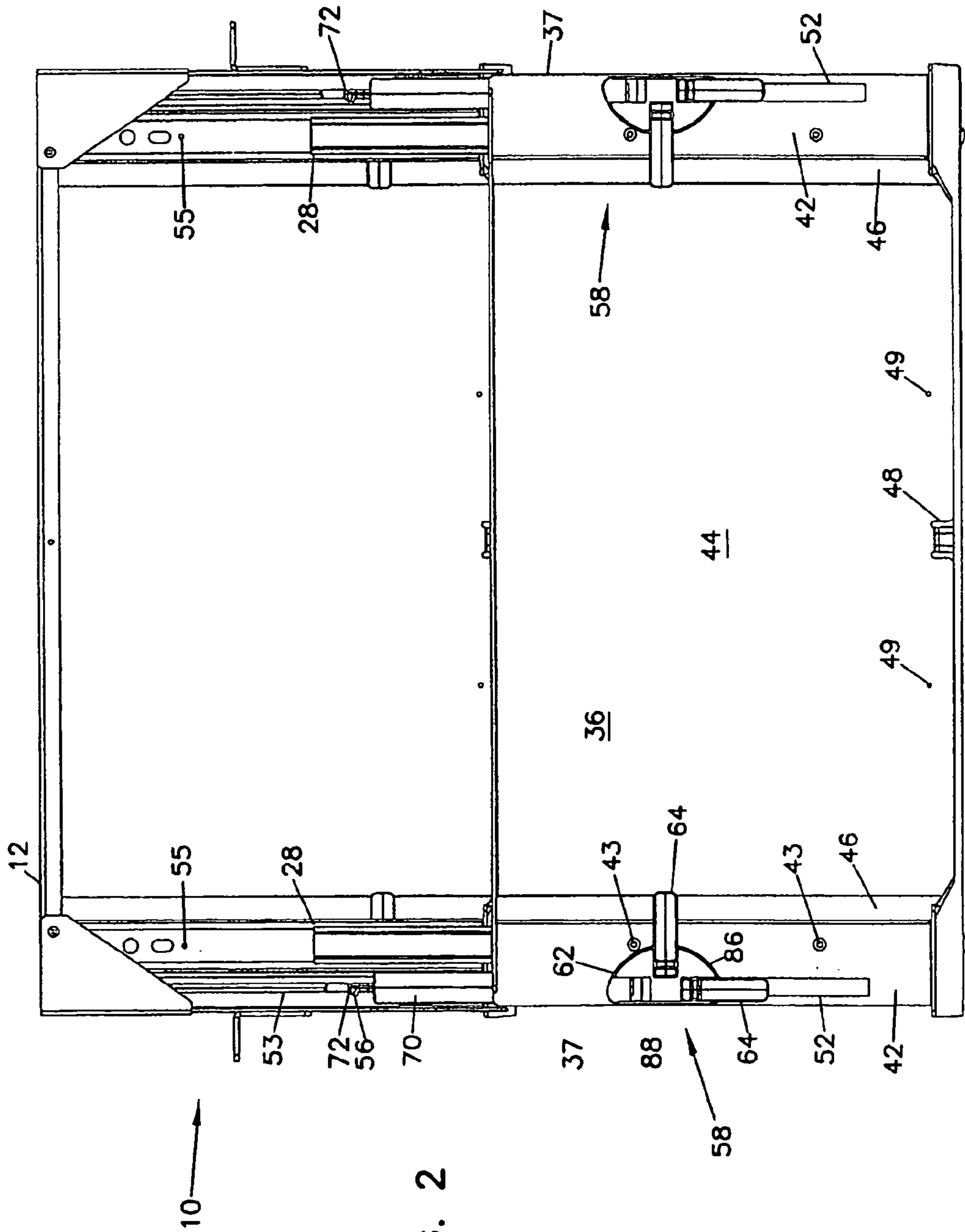


FIG. 2

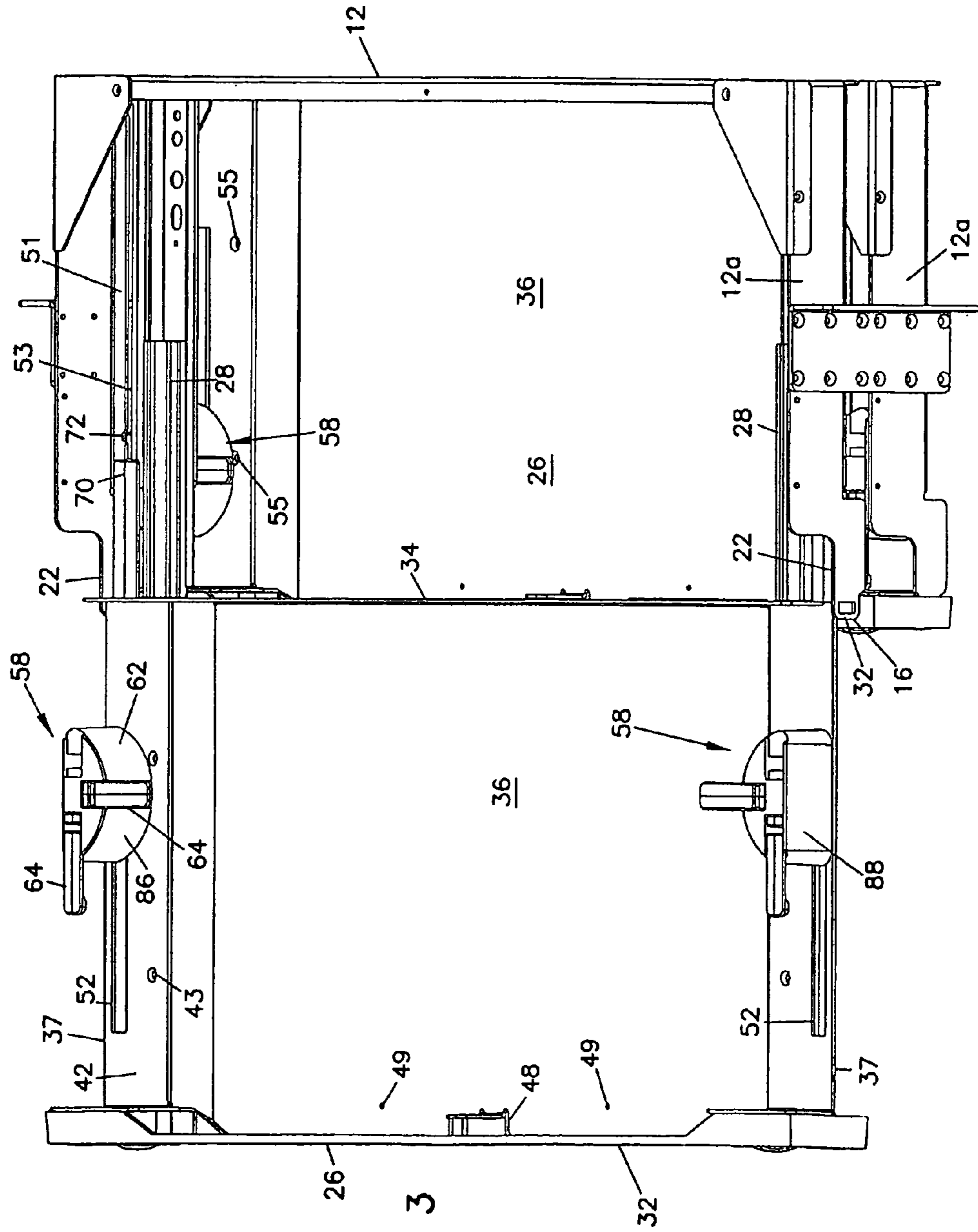


FIG. 3

FIG. 3B

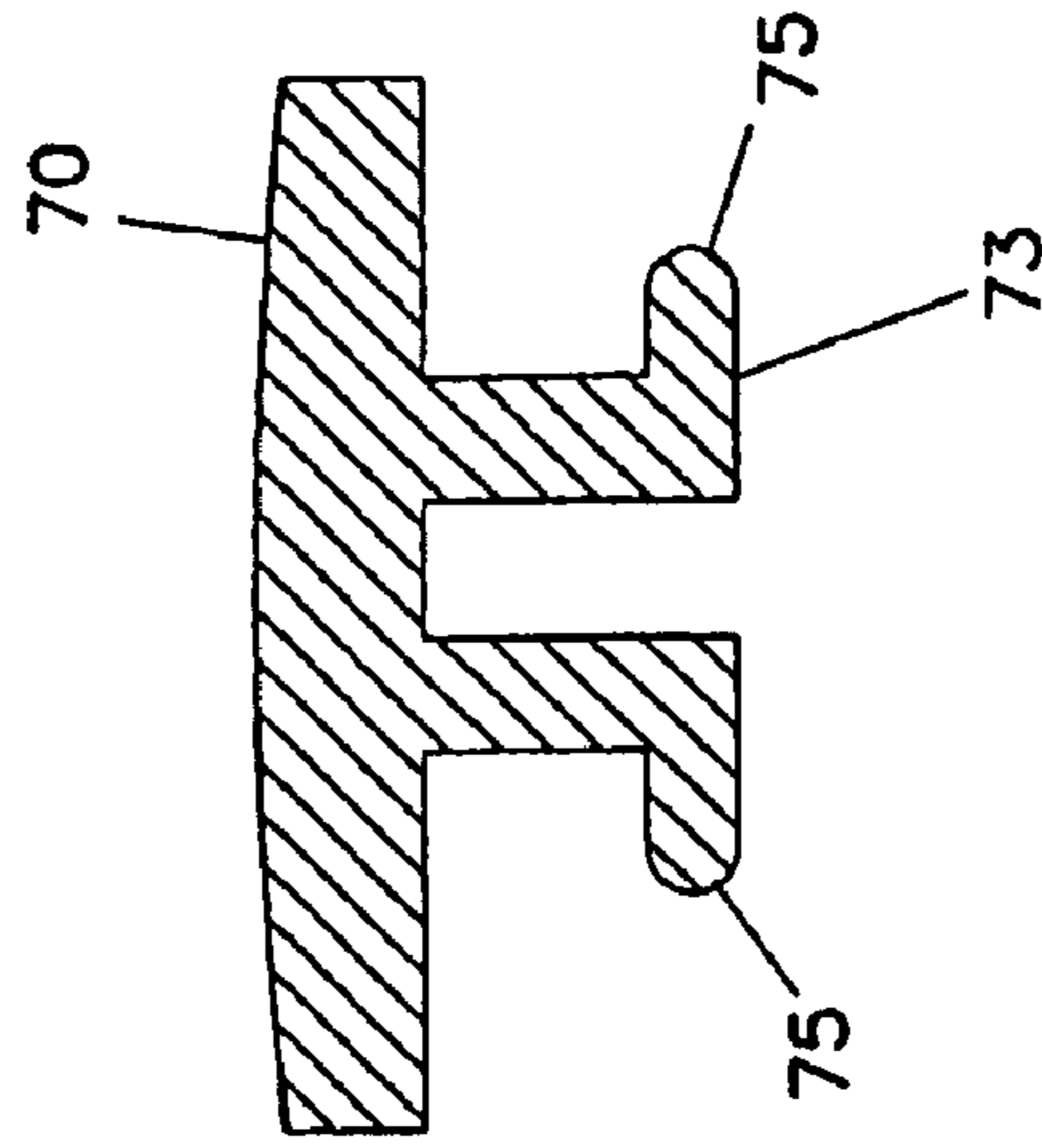


FIG. 3A

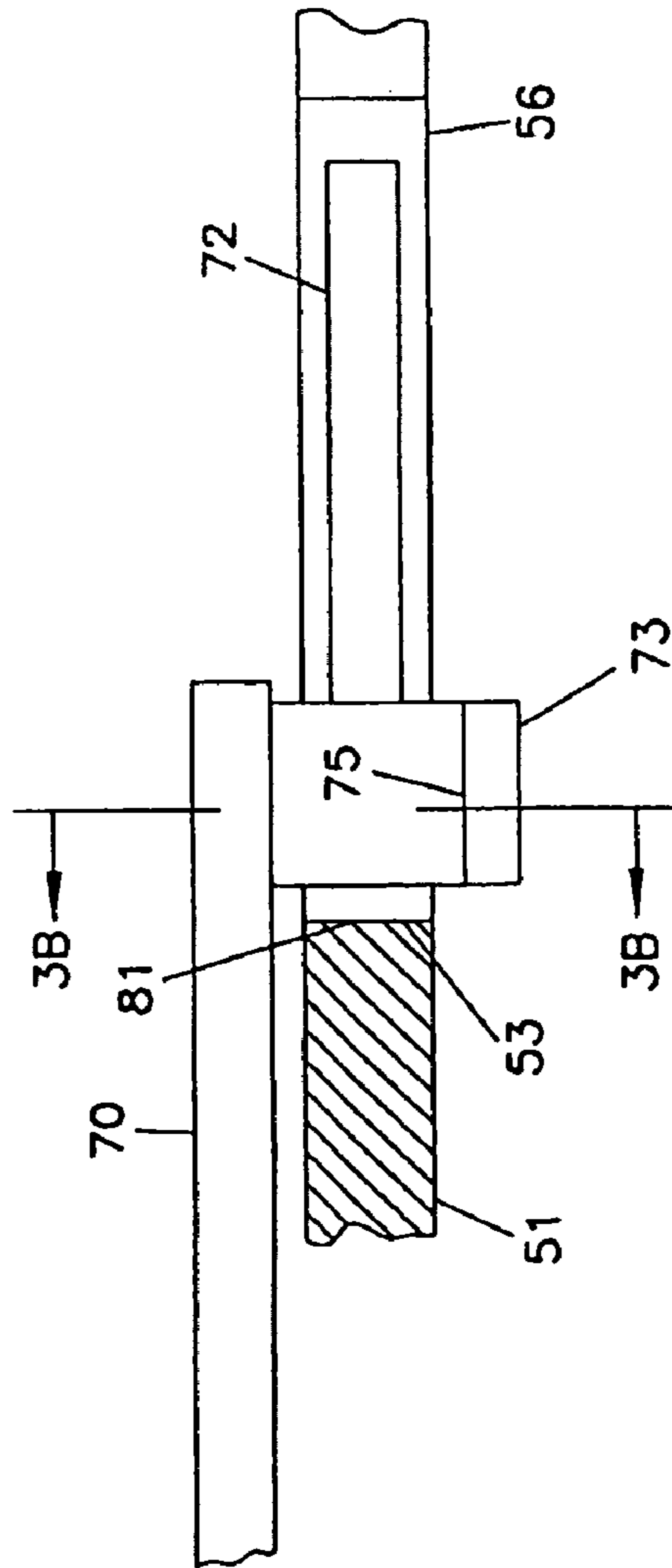
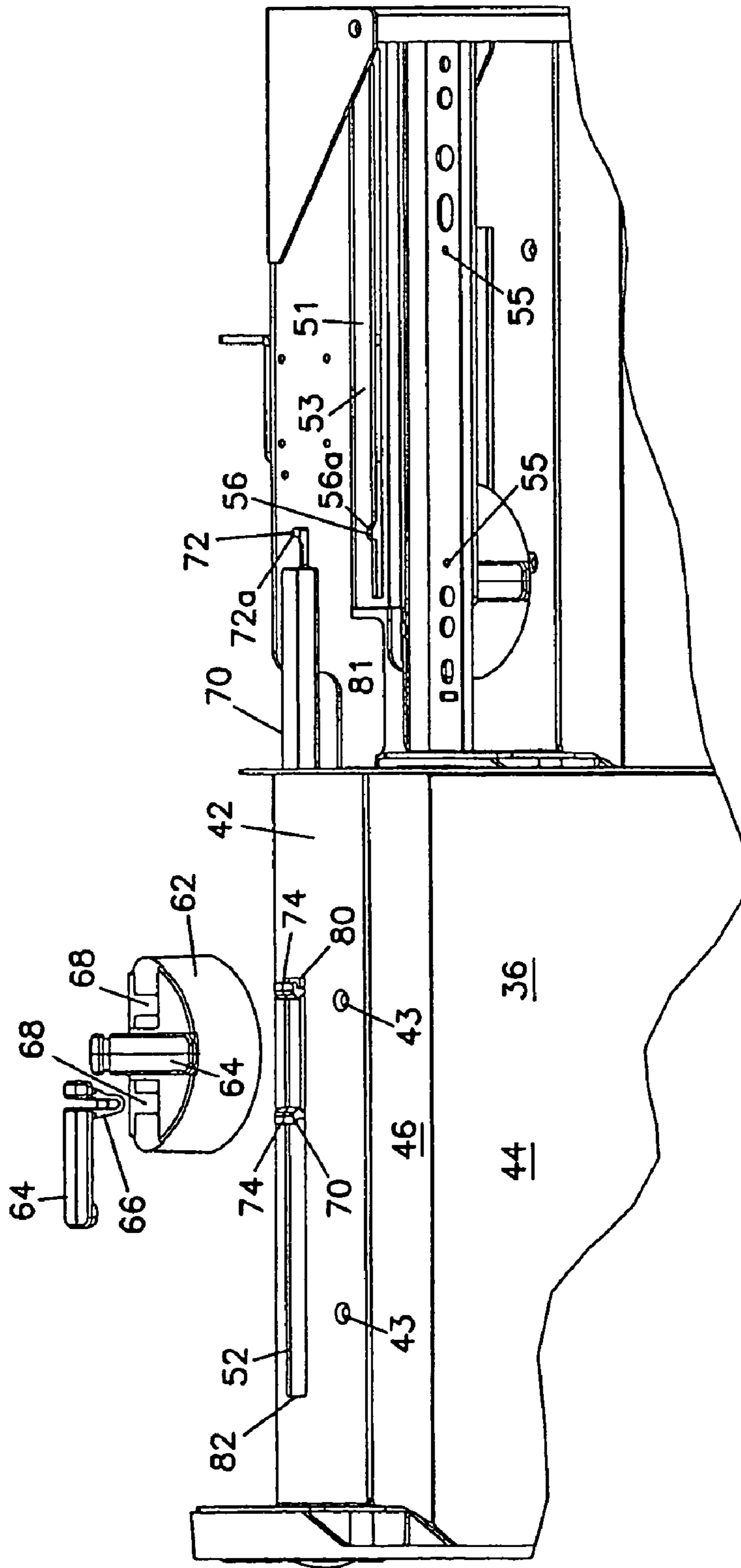
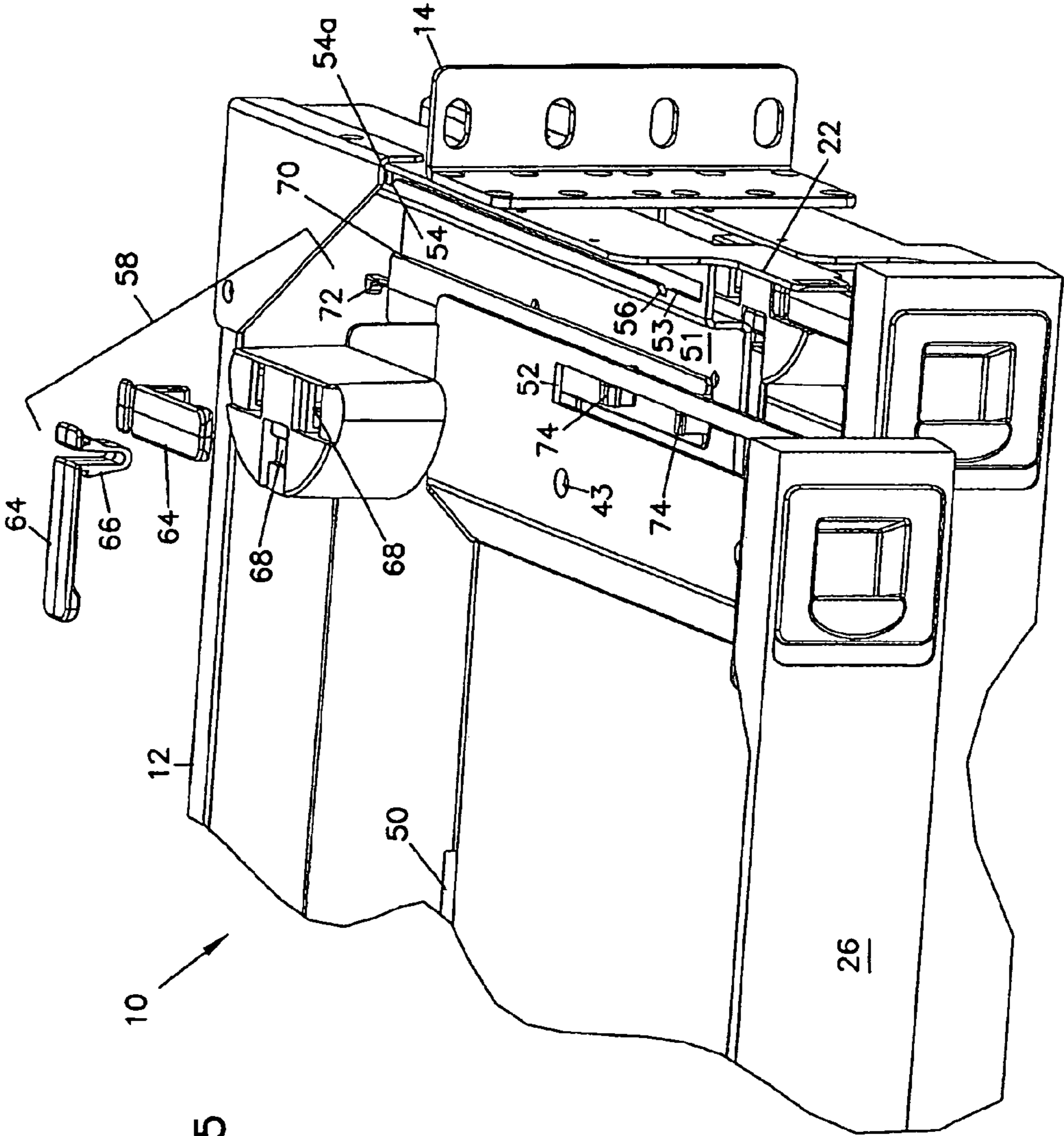


FIG. 4





10
FIG. 5

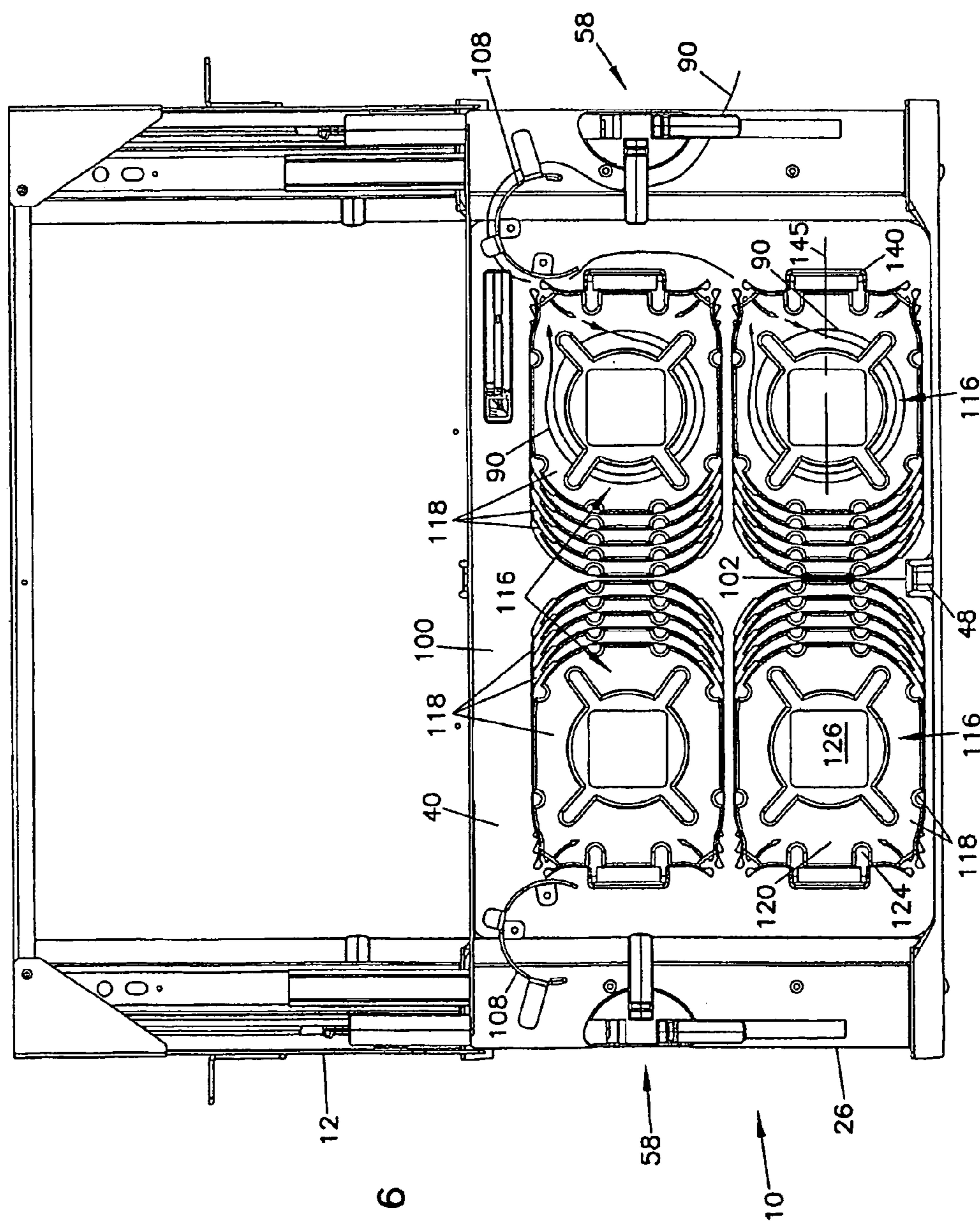


FIG. 6

FIG. 7

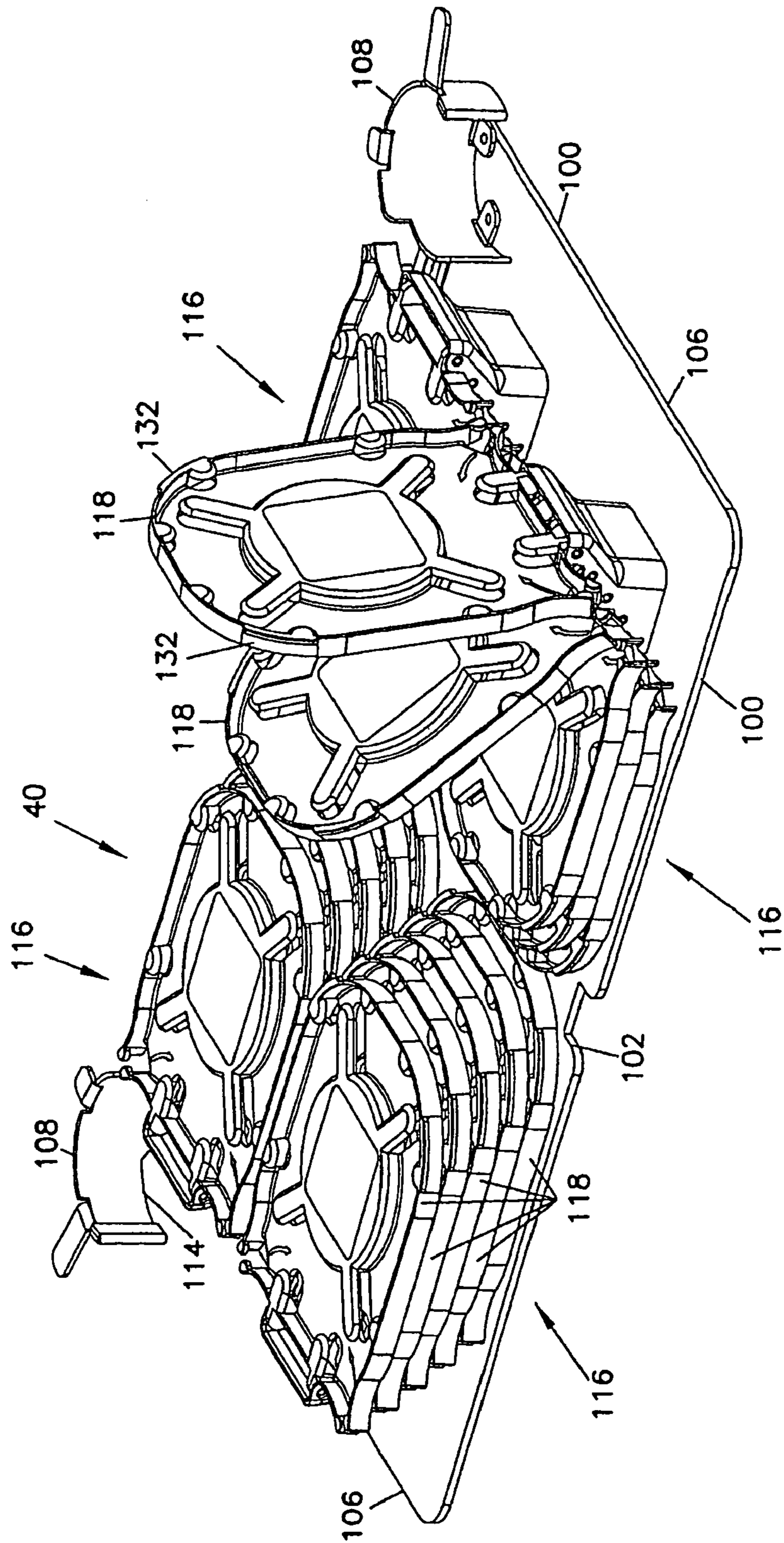


FIG. 8

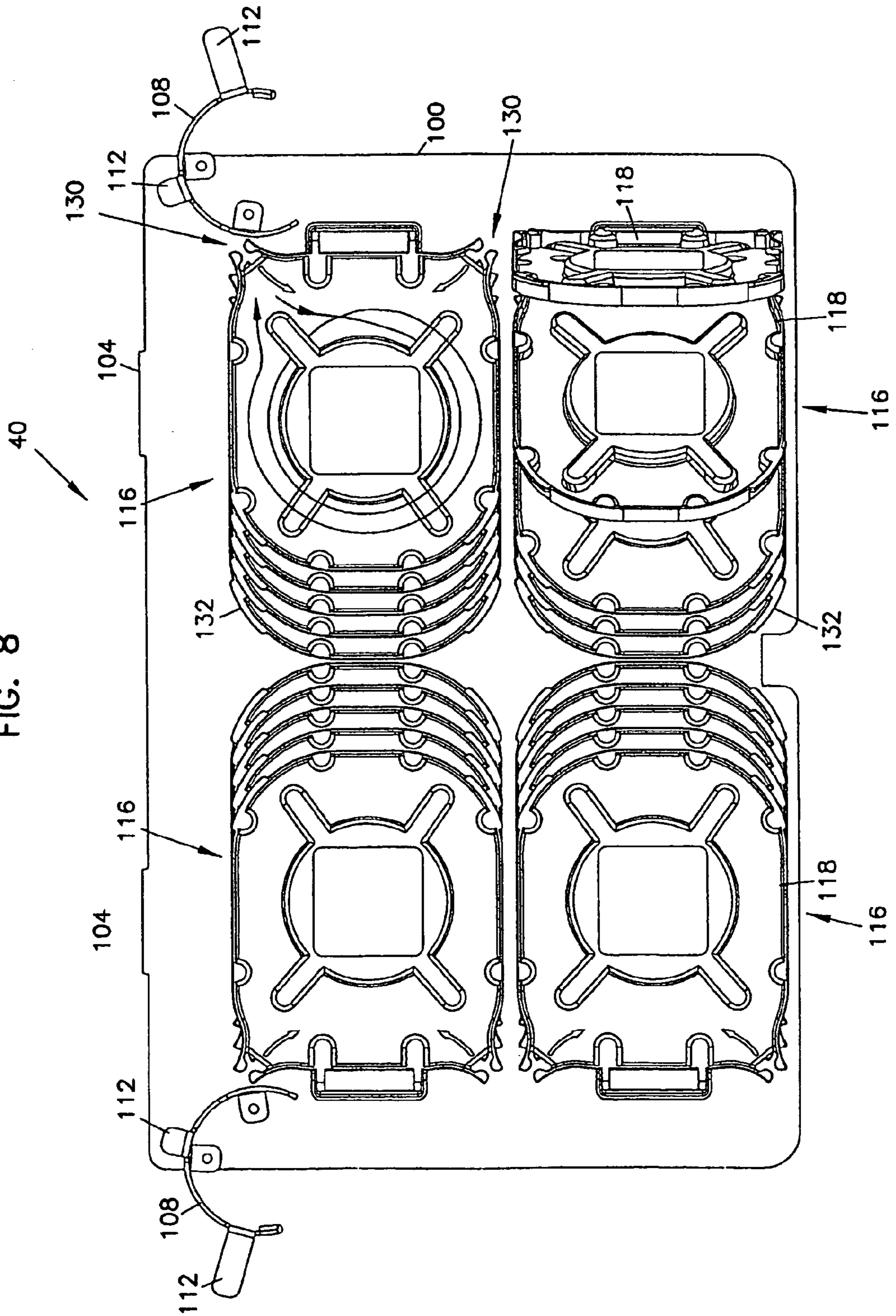


FIG. 9

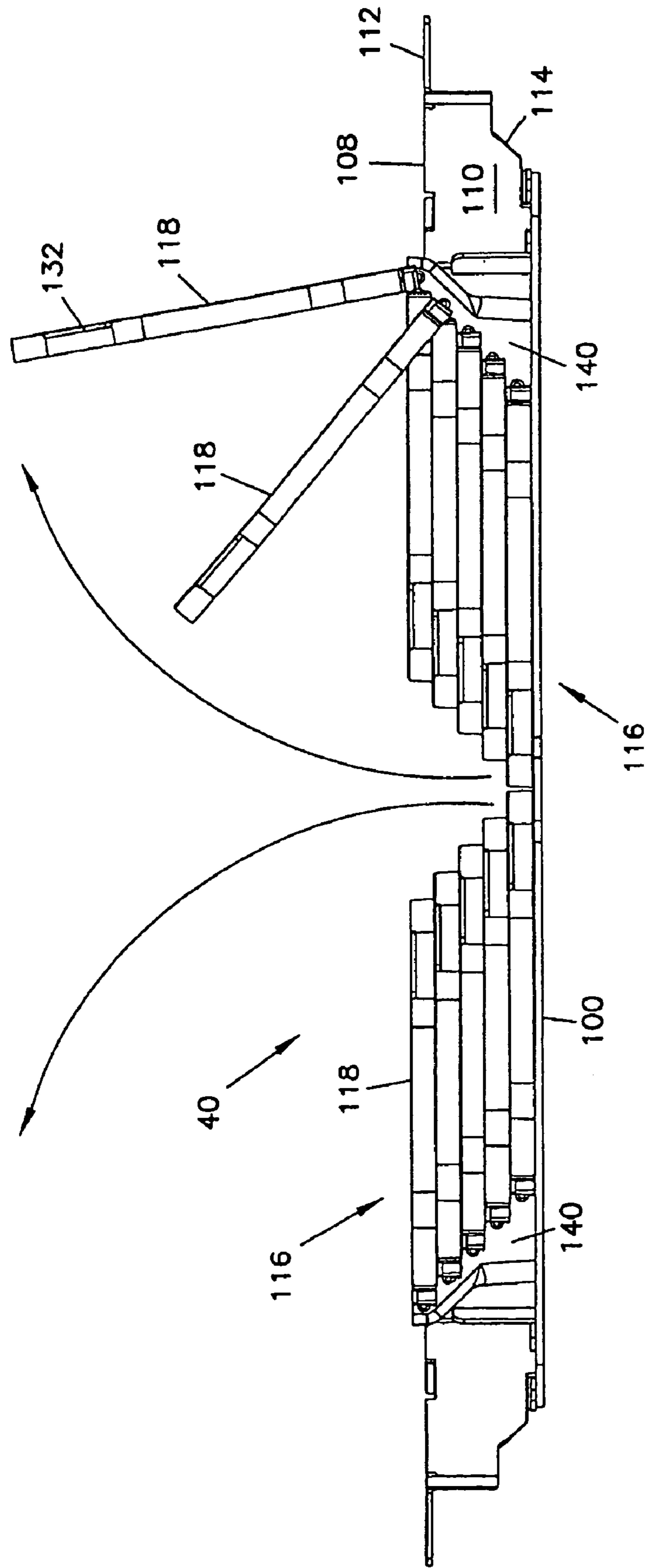
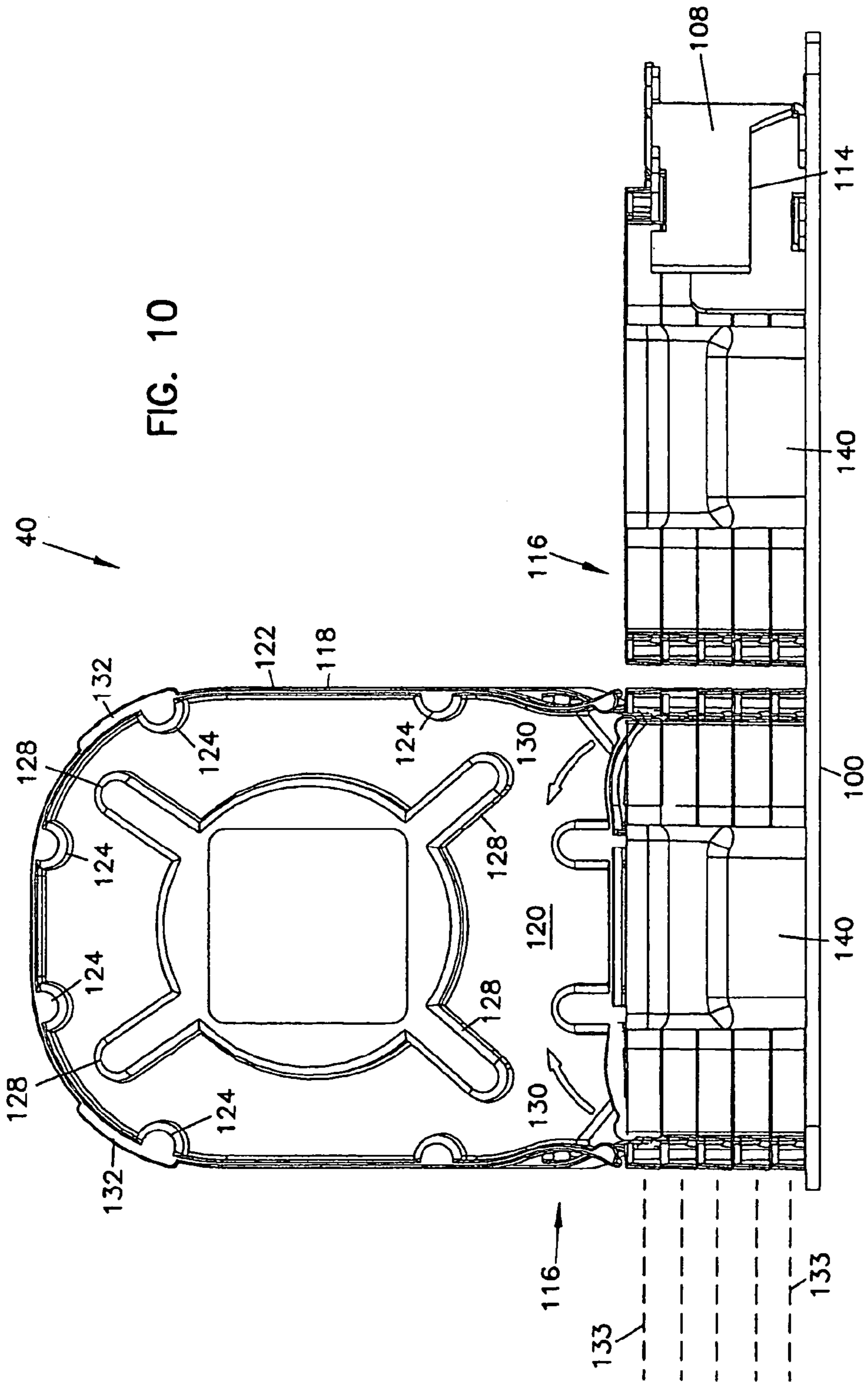


FIG. 10



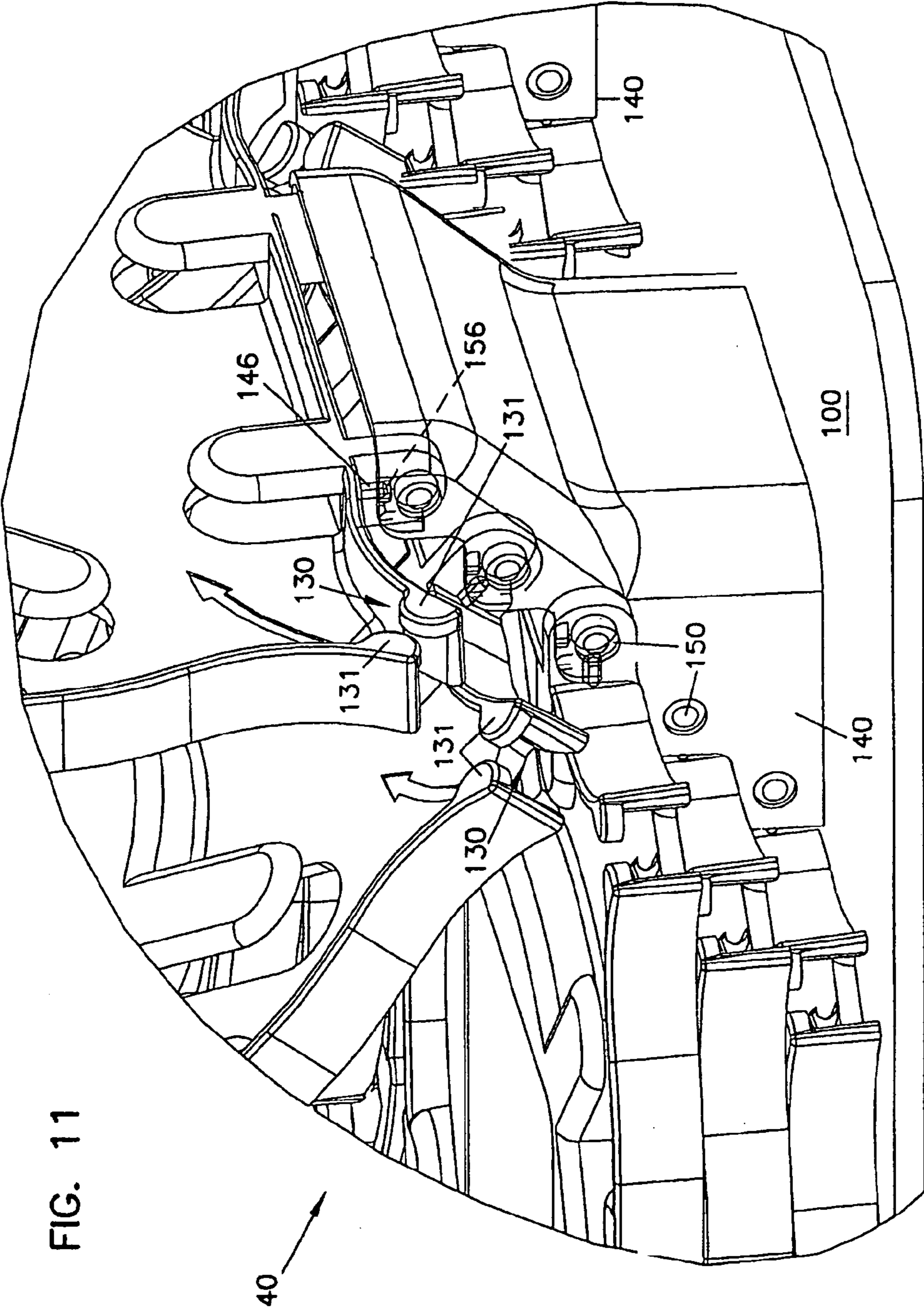


FIG. 11

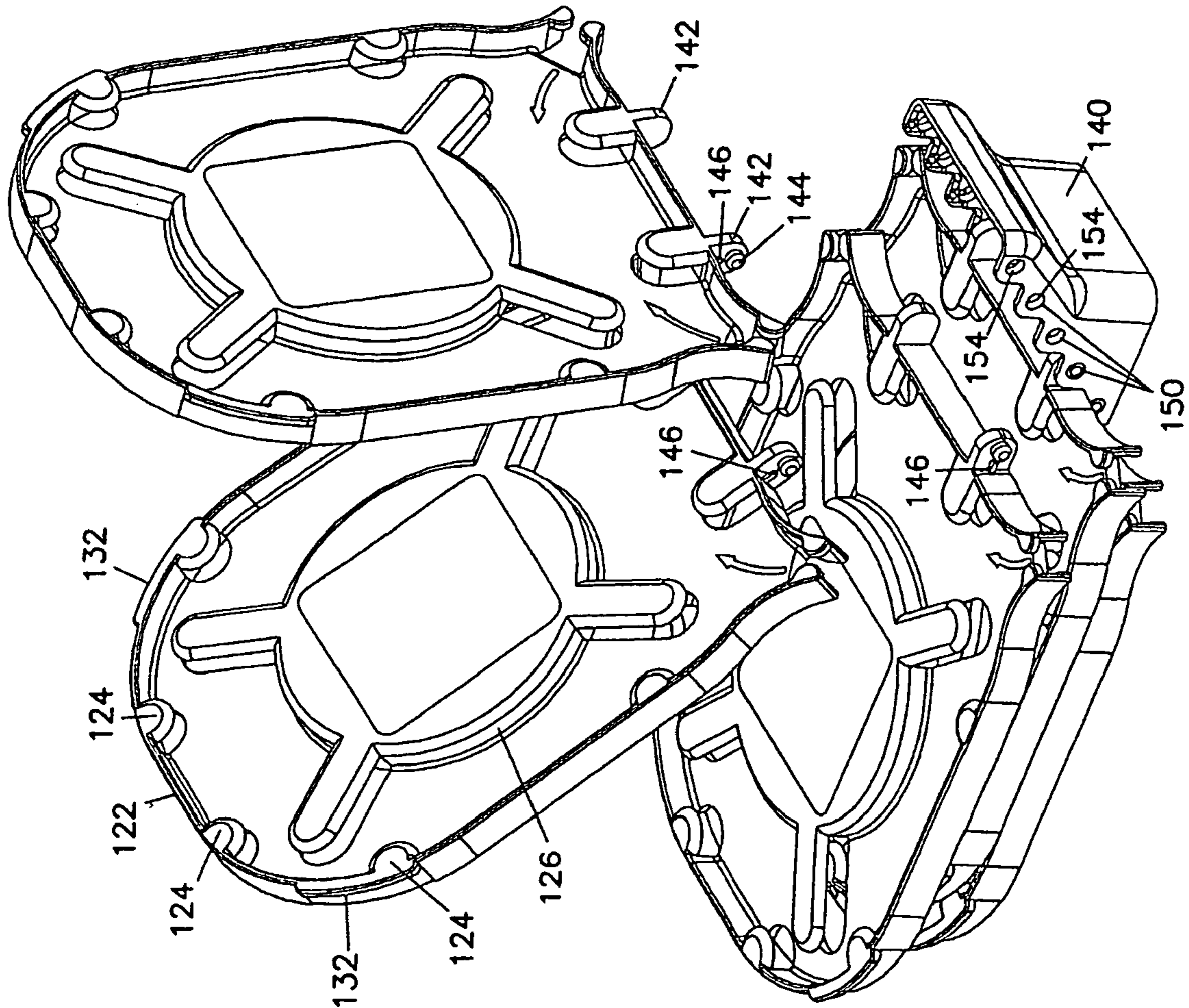


FIG. 12

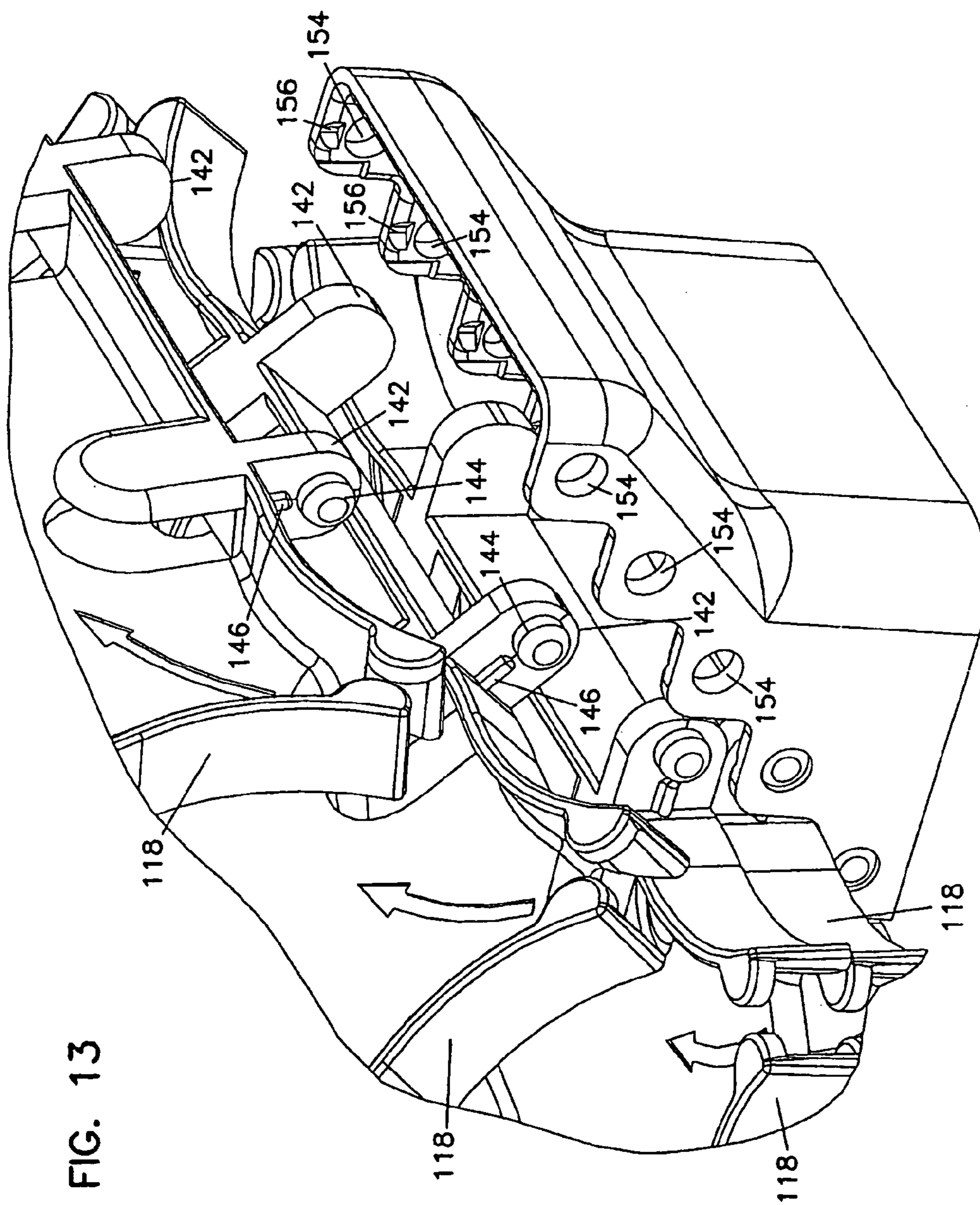


FIG. 14A

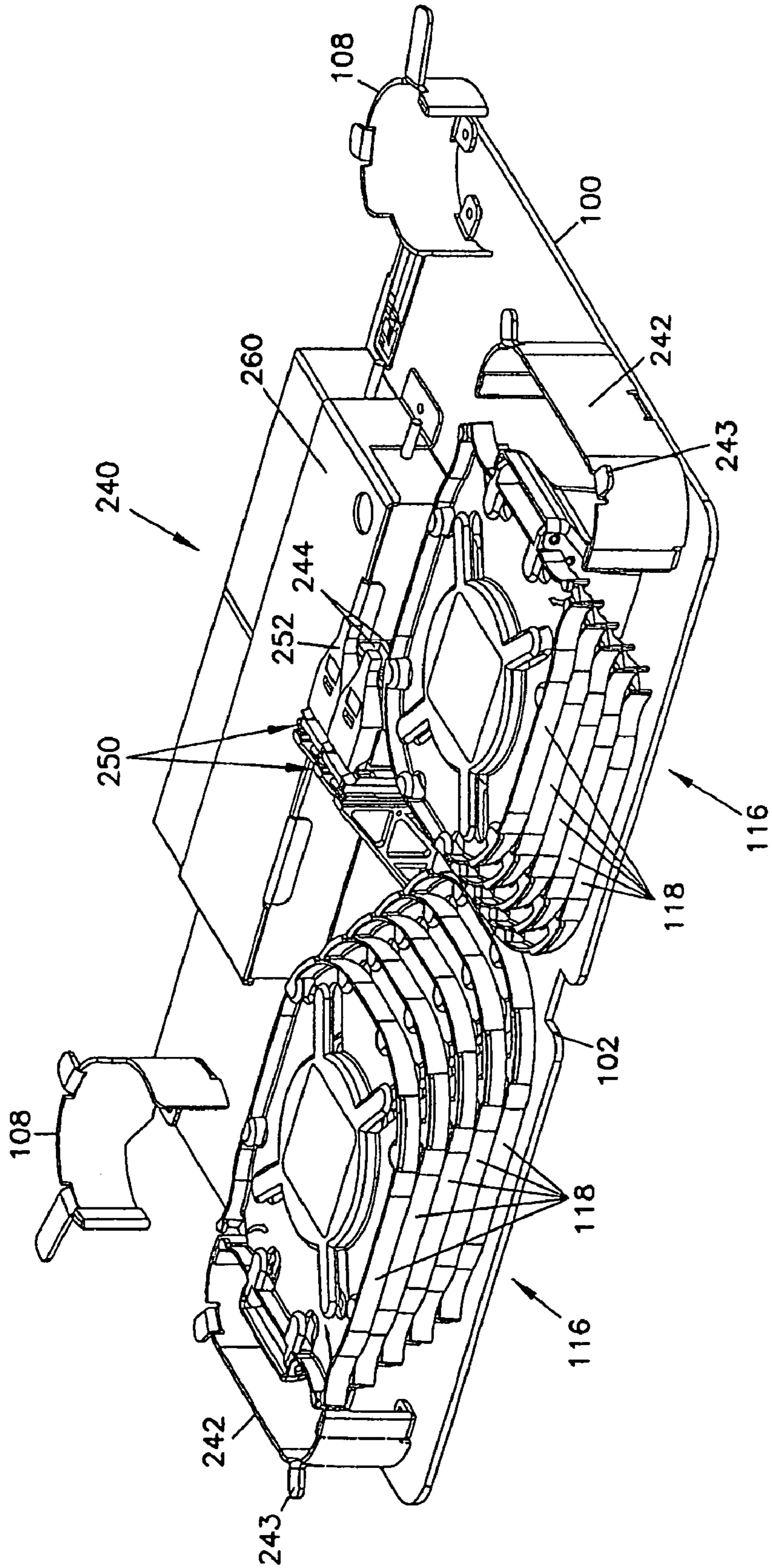


FIG. 14B

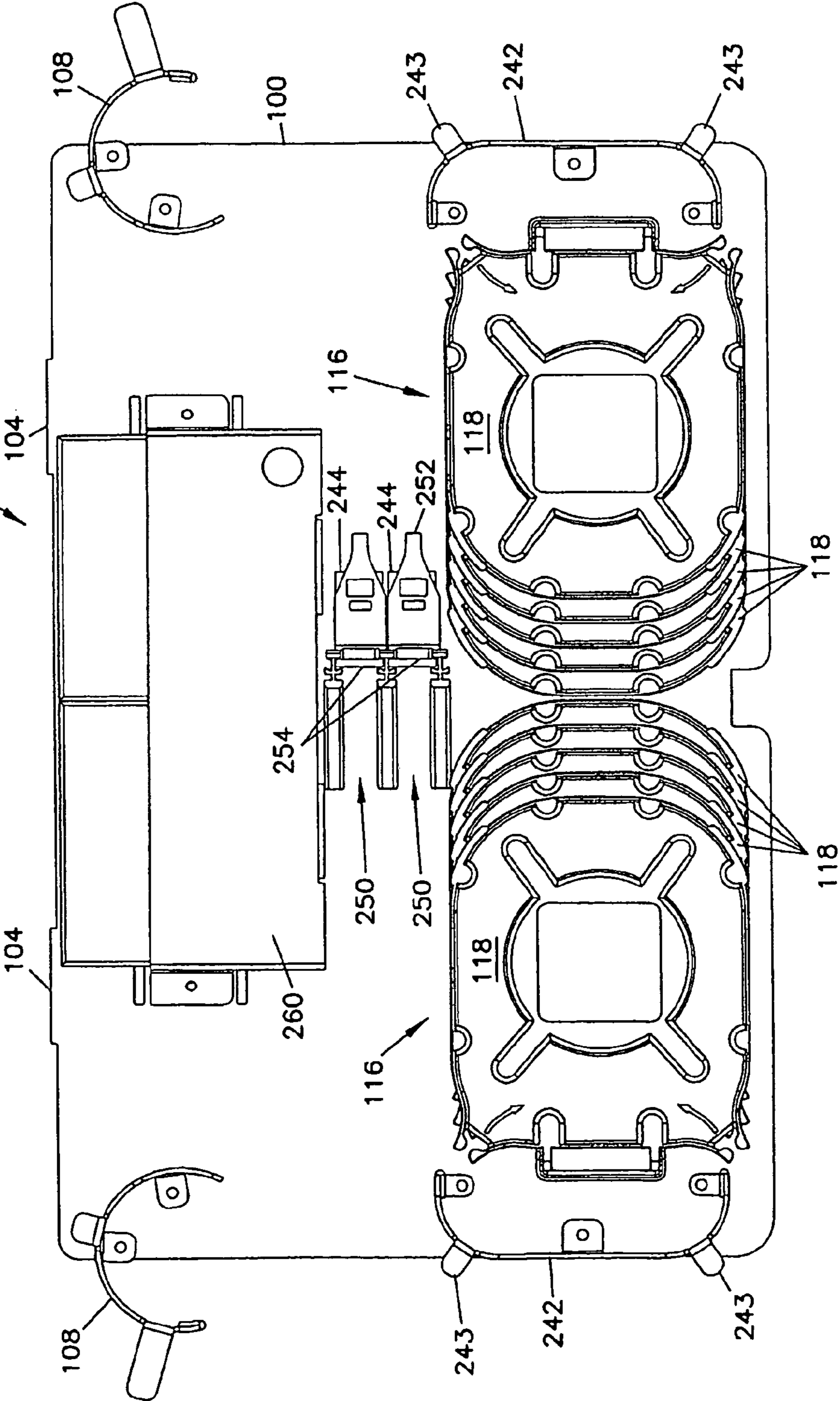


FIG. 15A

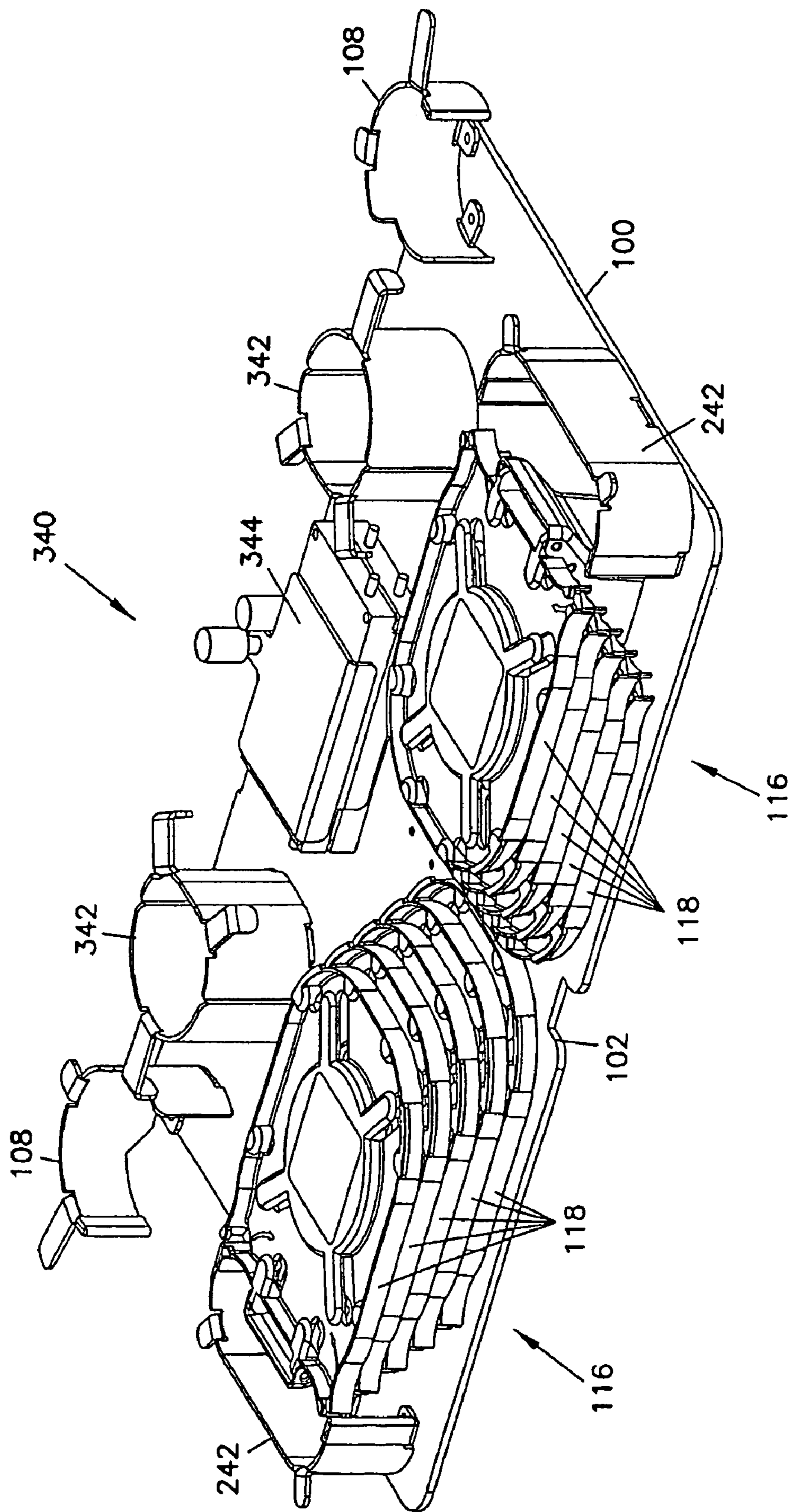


FIG. 15B

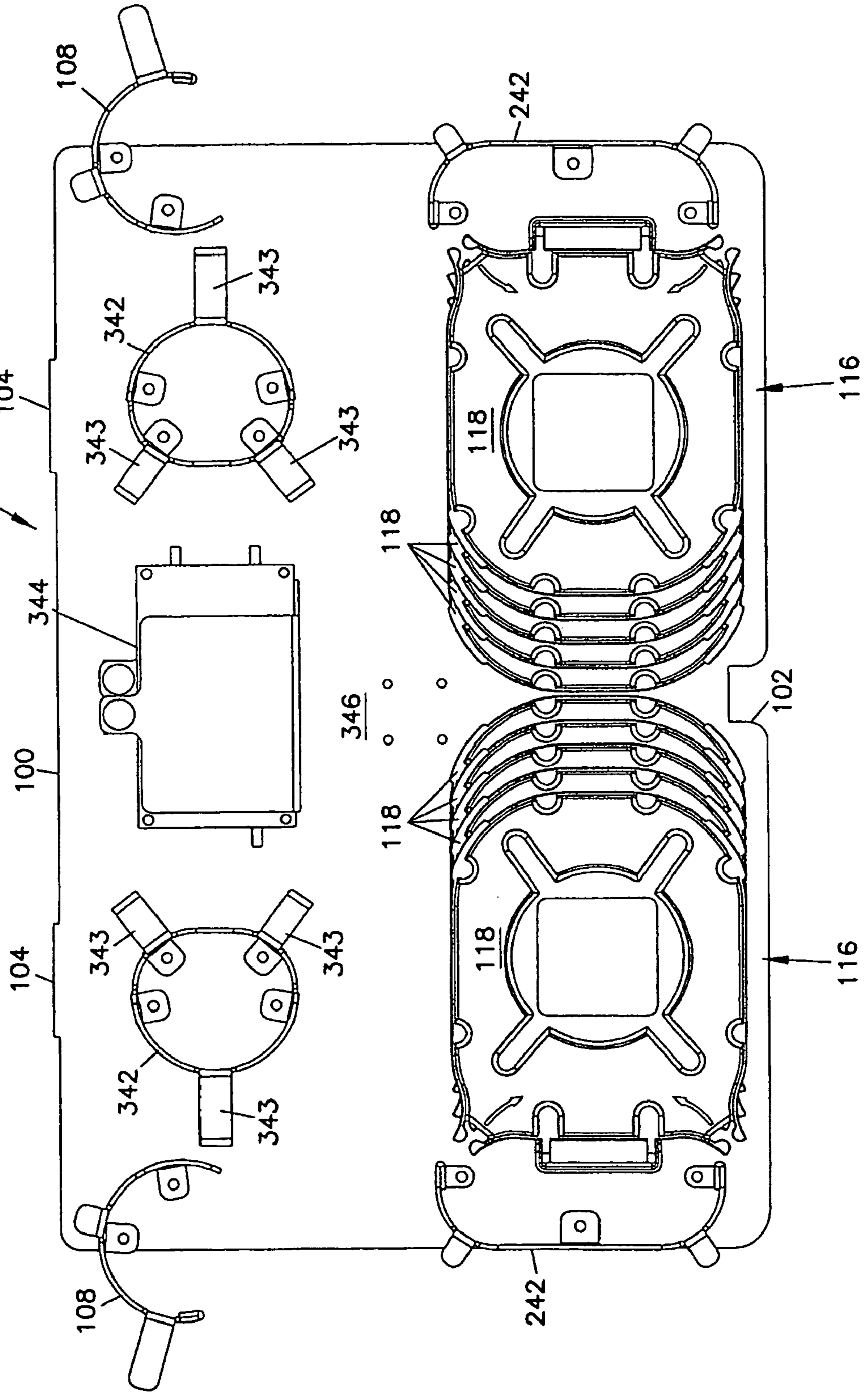


FIG. 16A

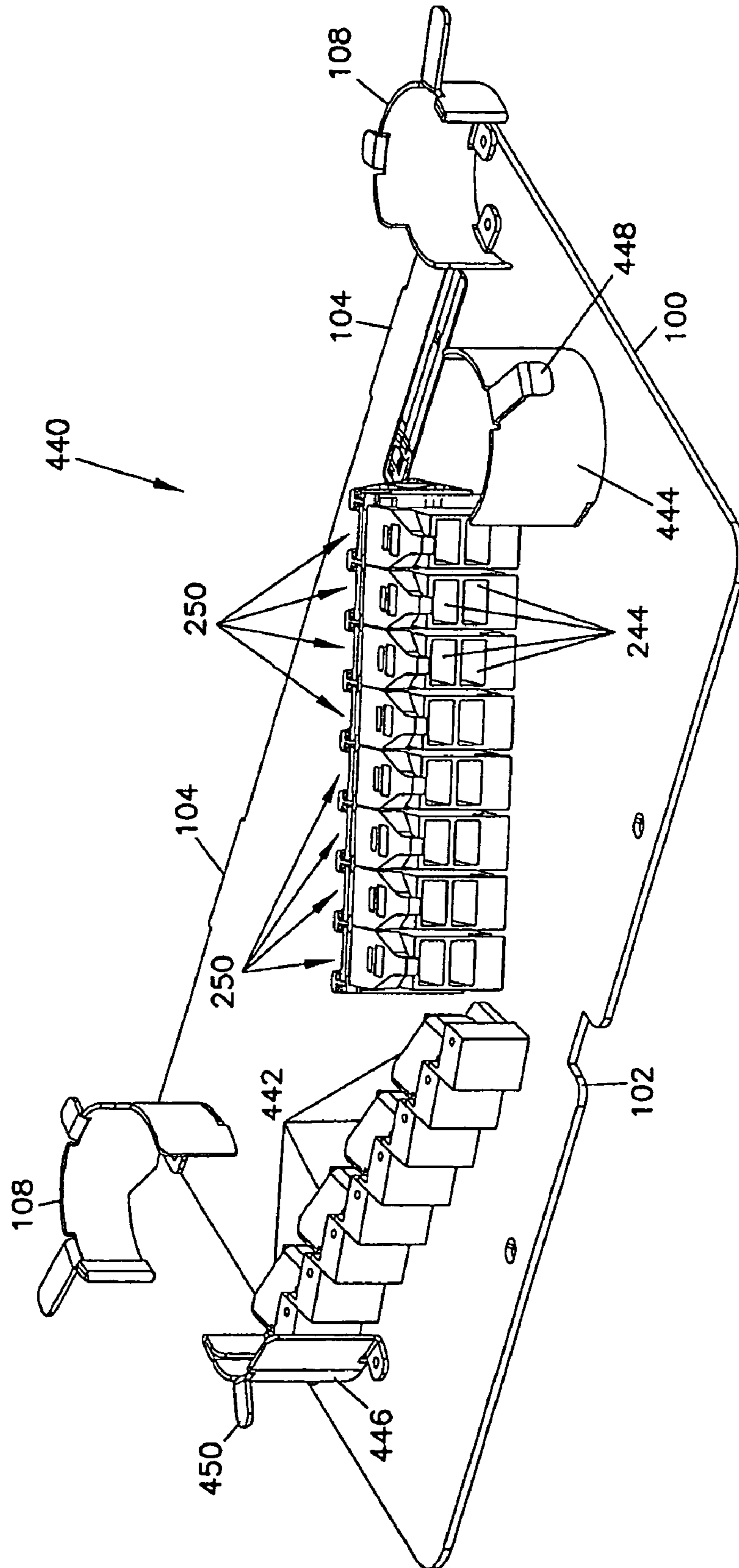


FIG. 16B

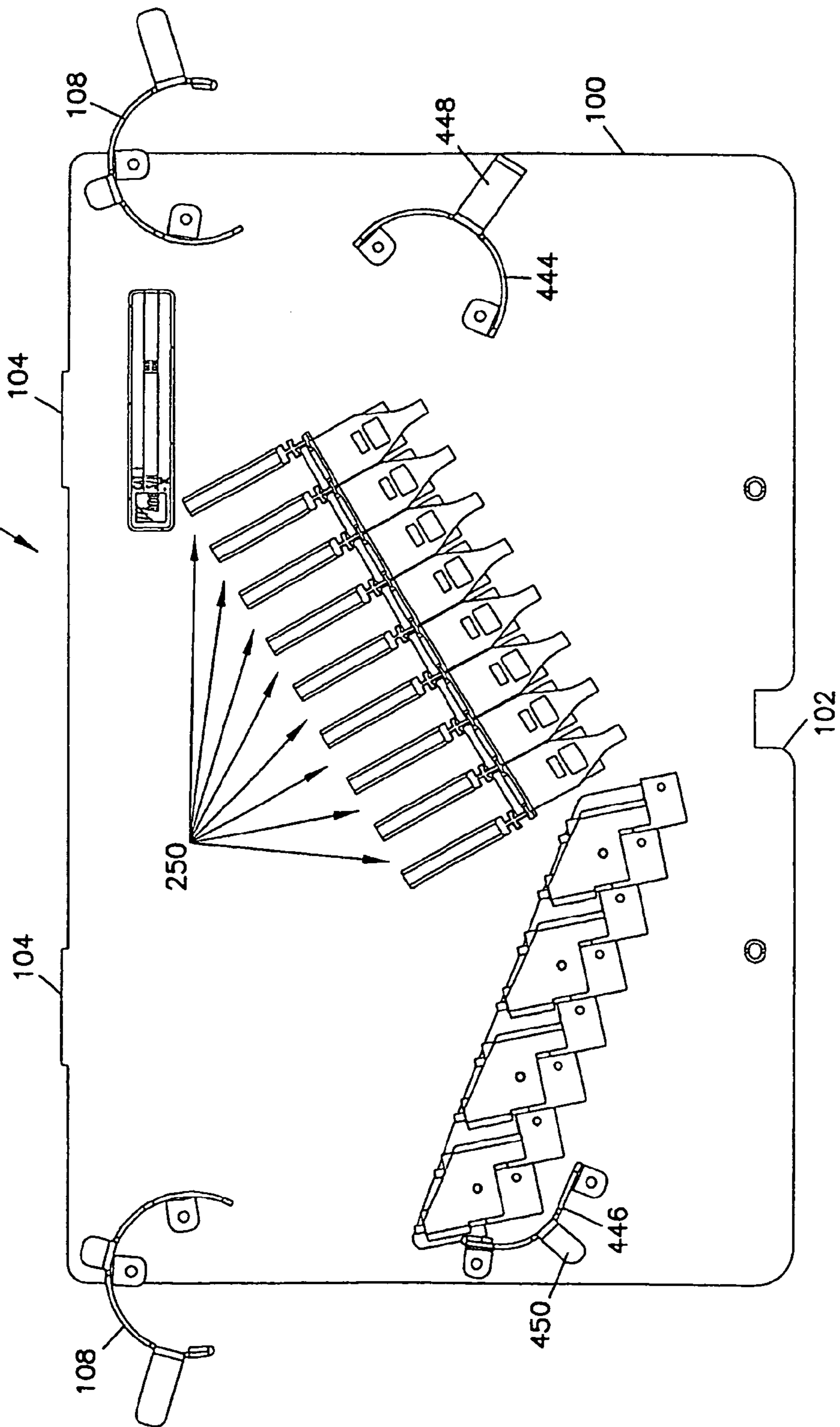


FIG. 17A

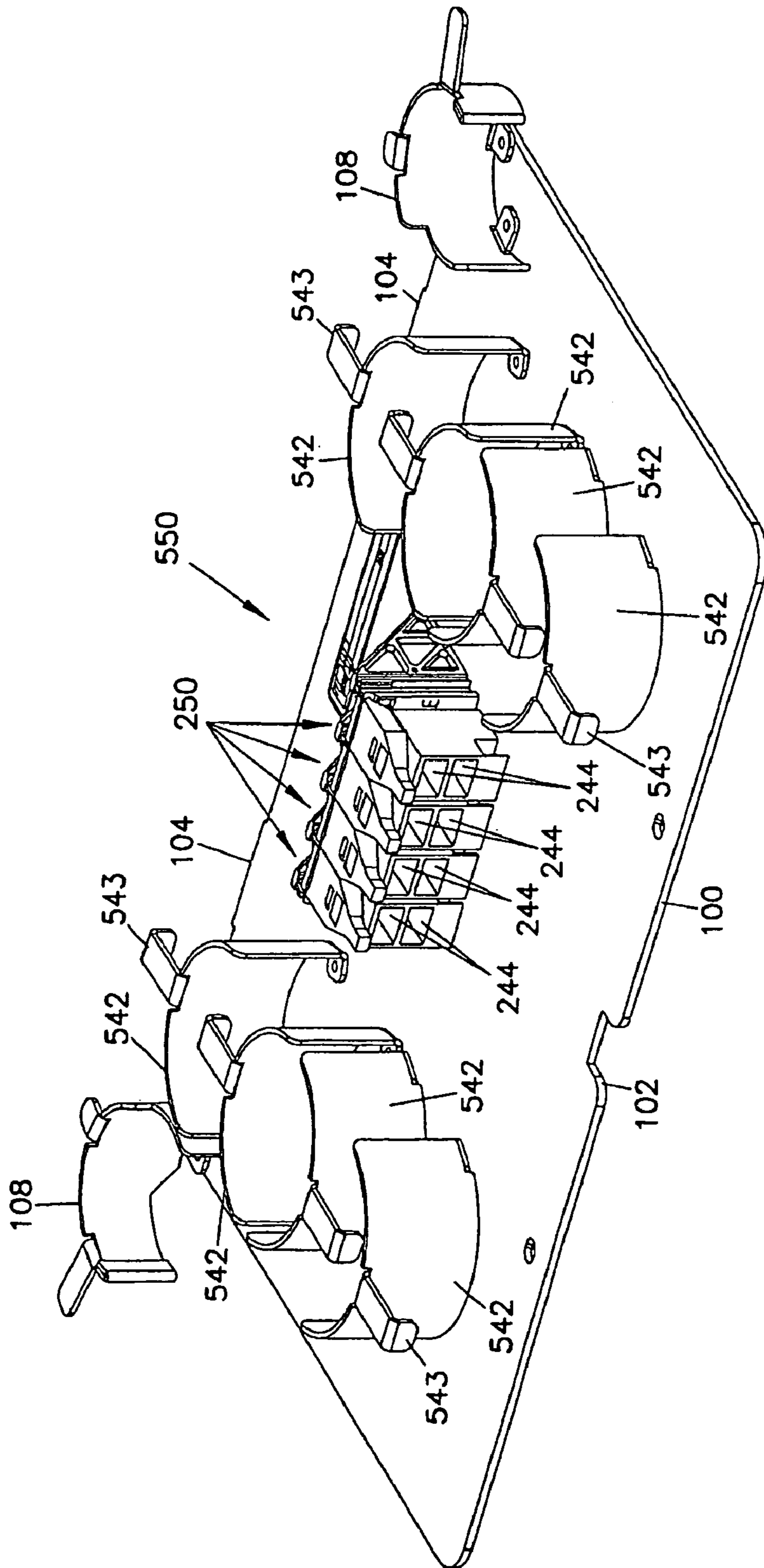


FIG. 17B

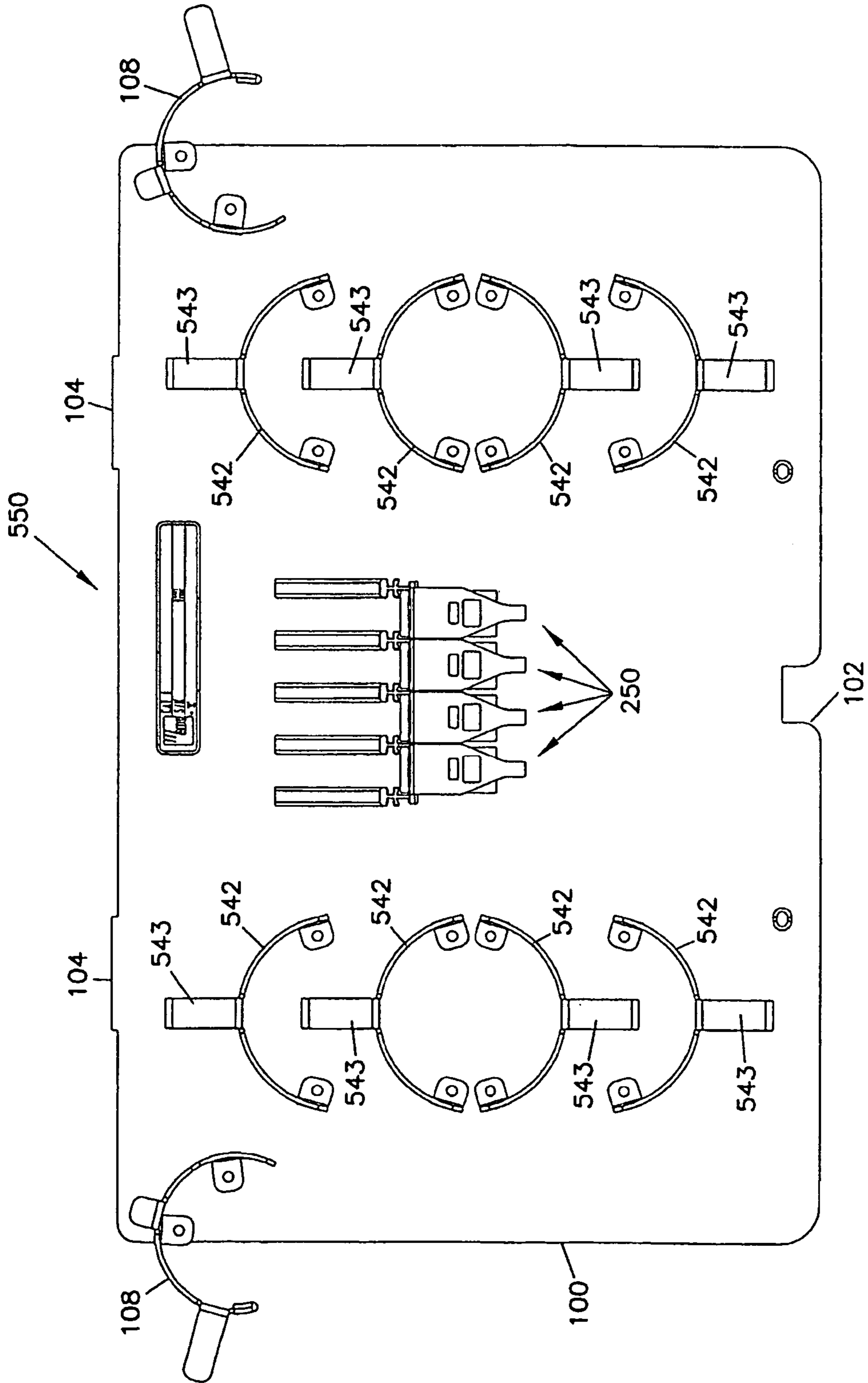


FIG. 18A

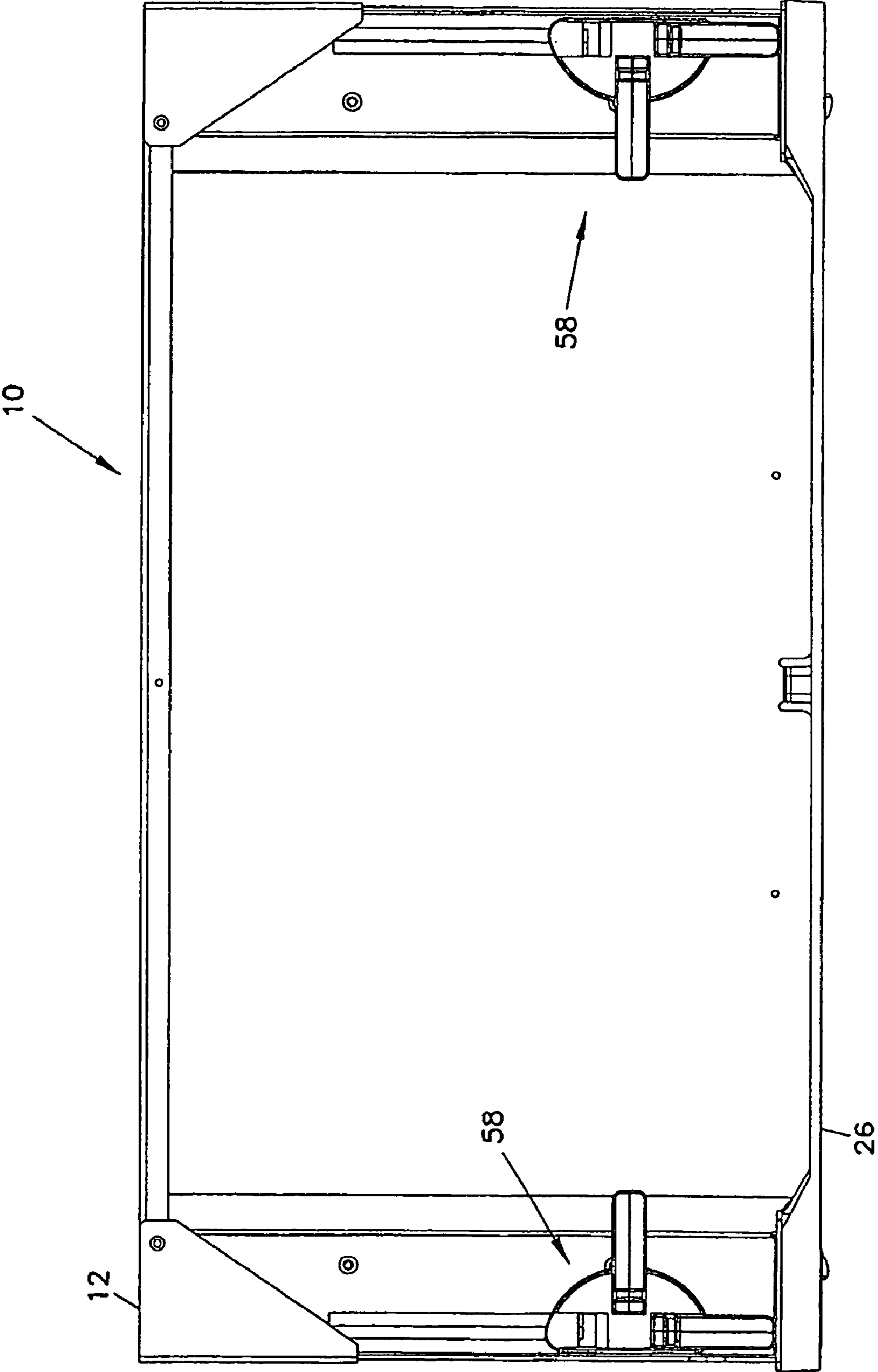


FIG. 18B

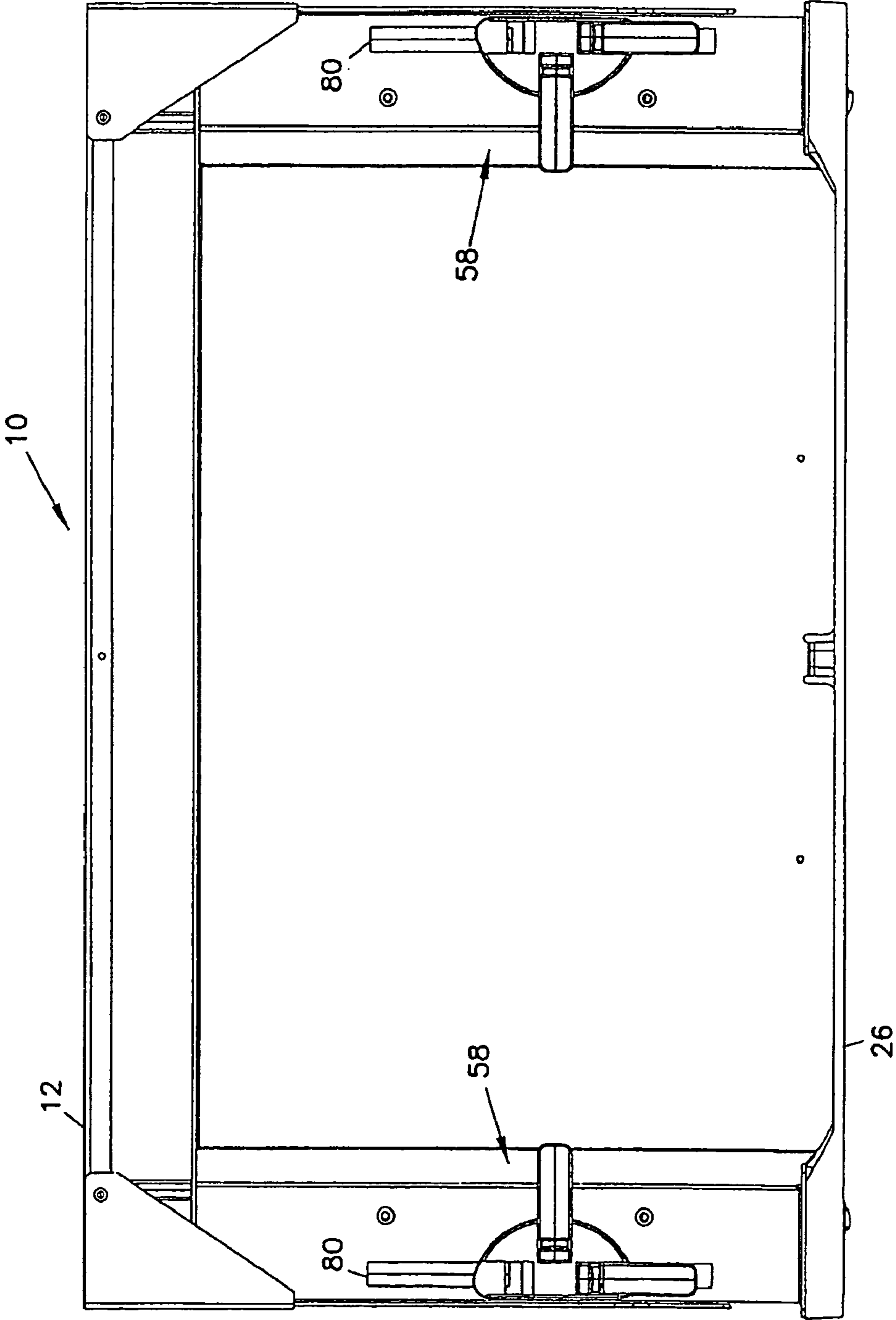


FIG. 18C

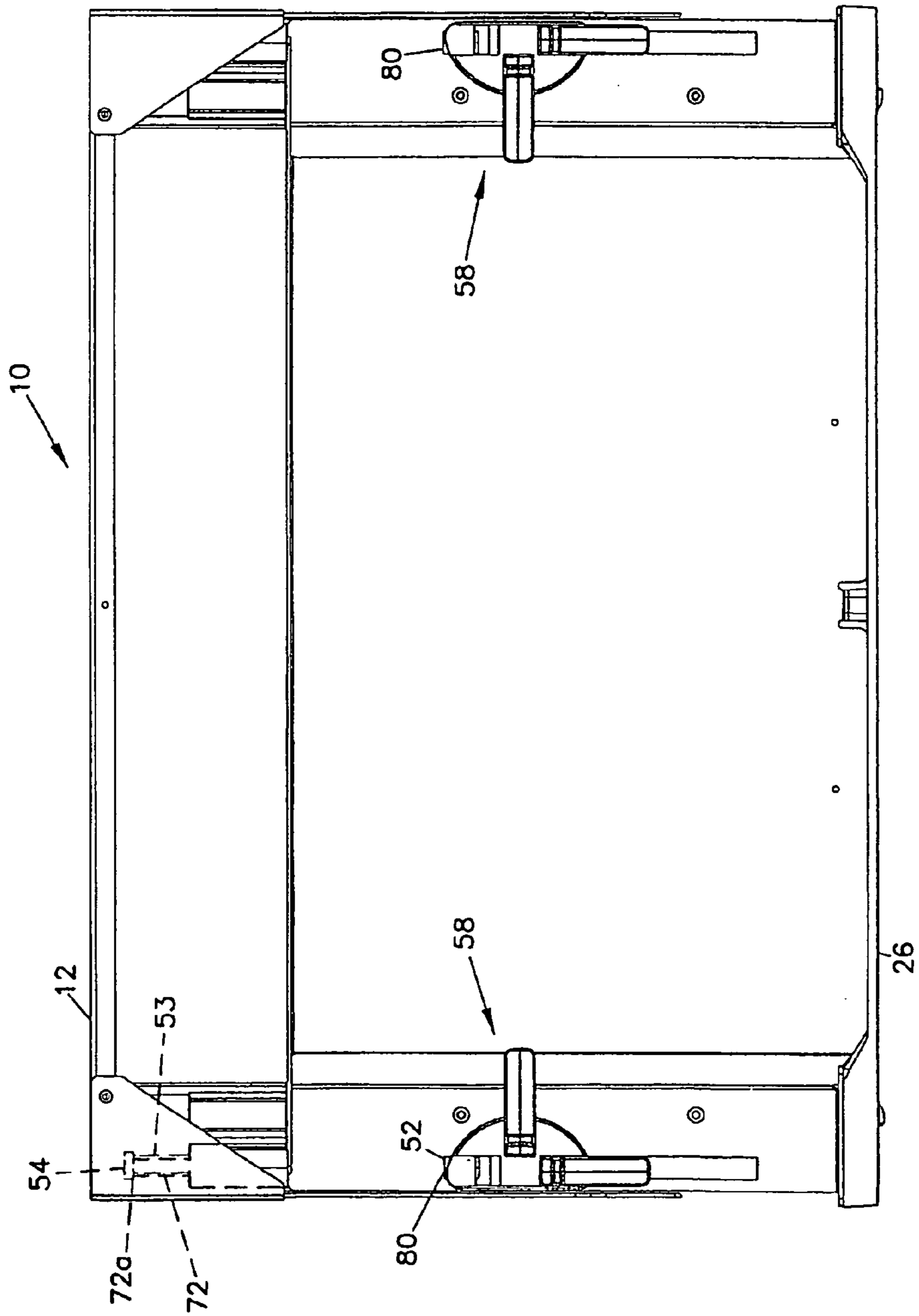
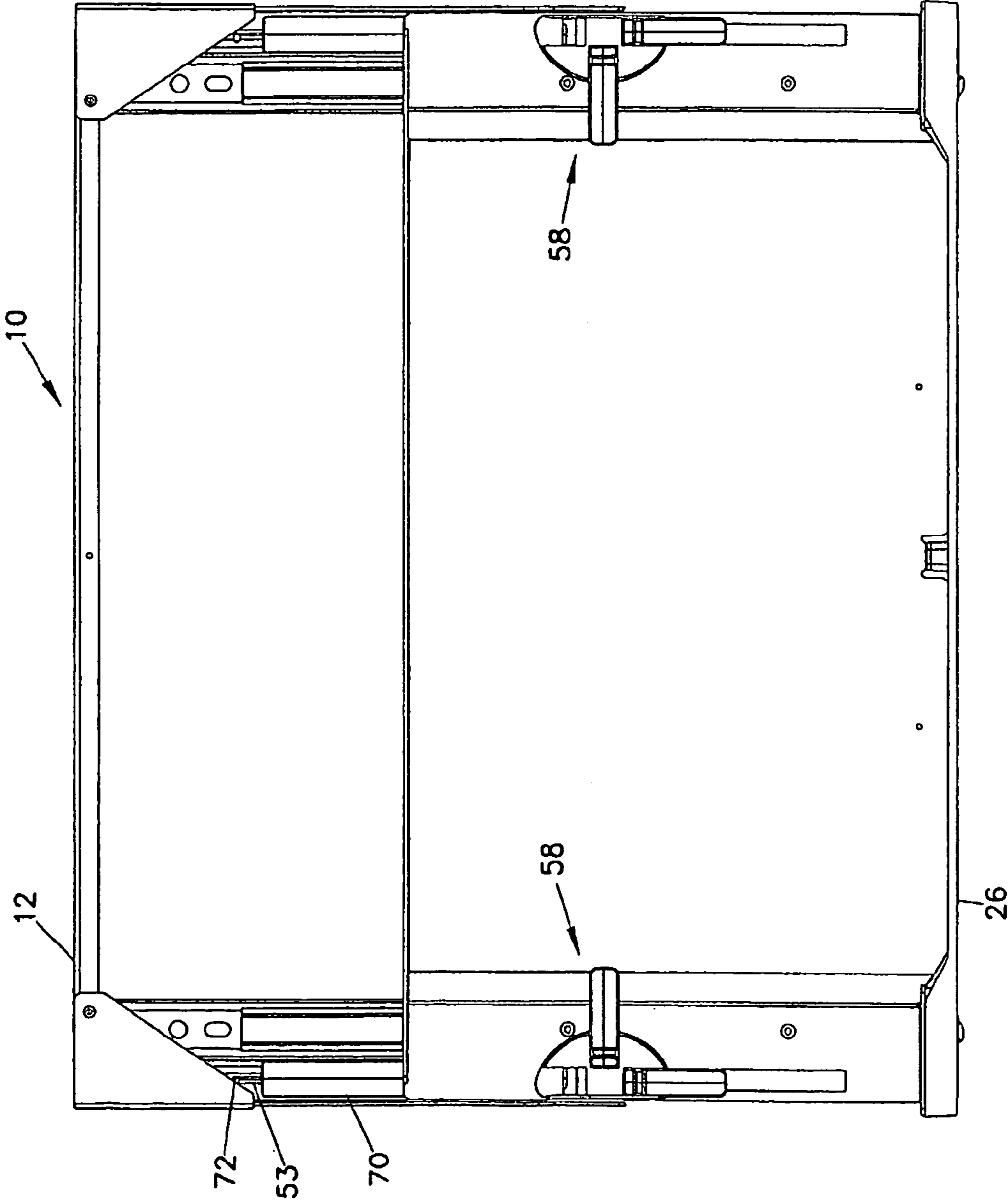
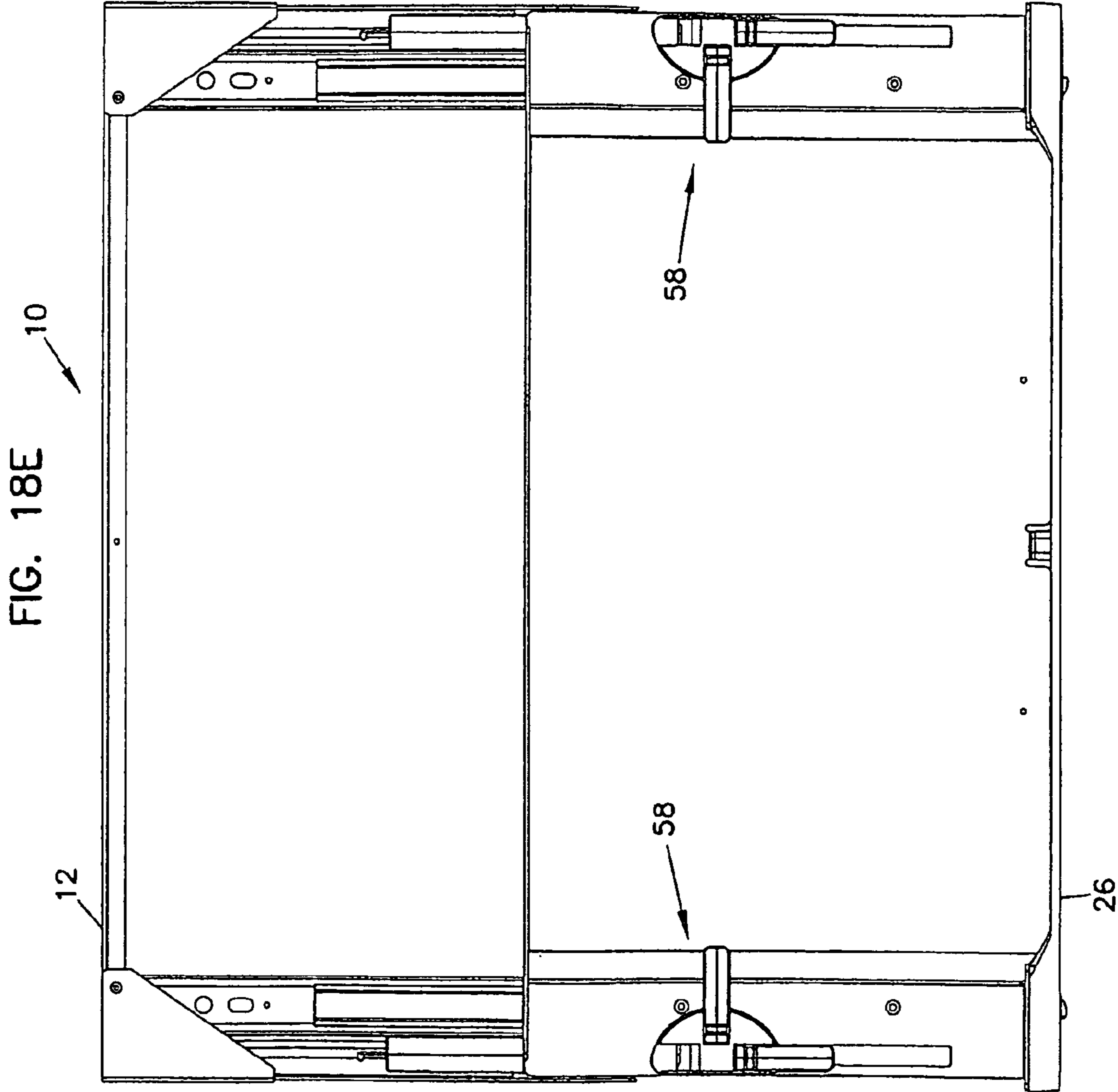
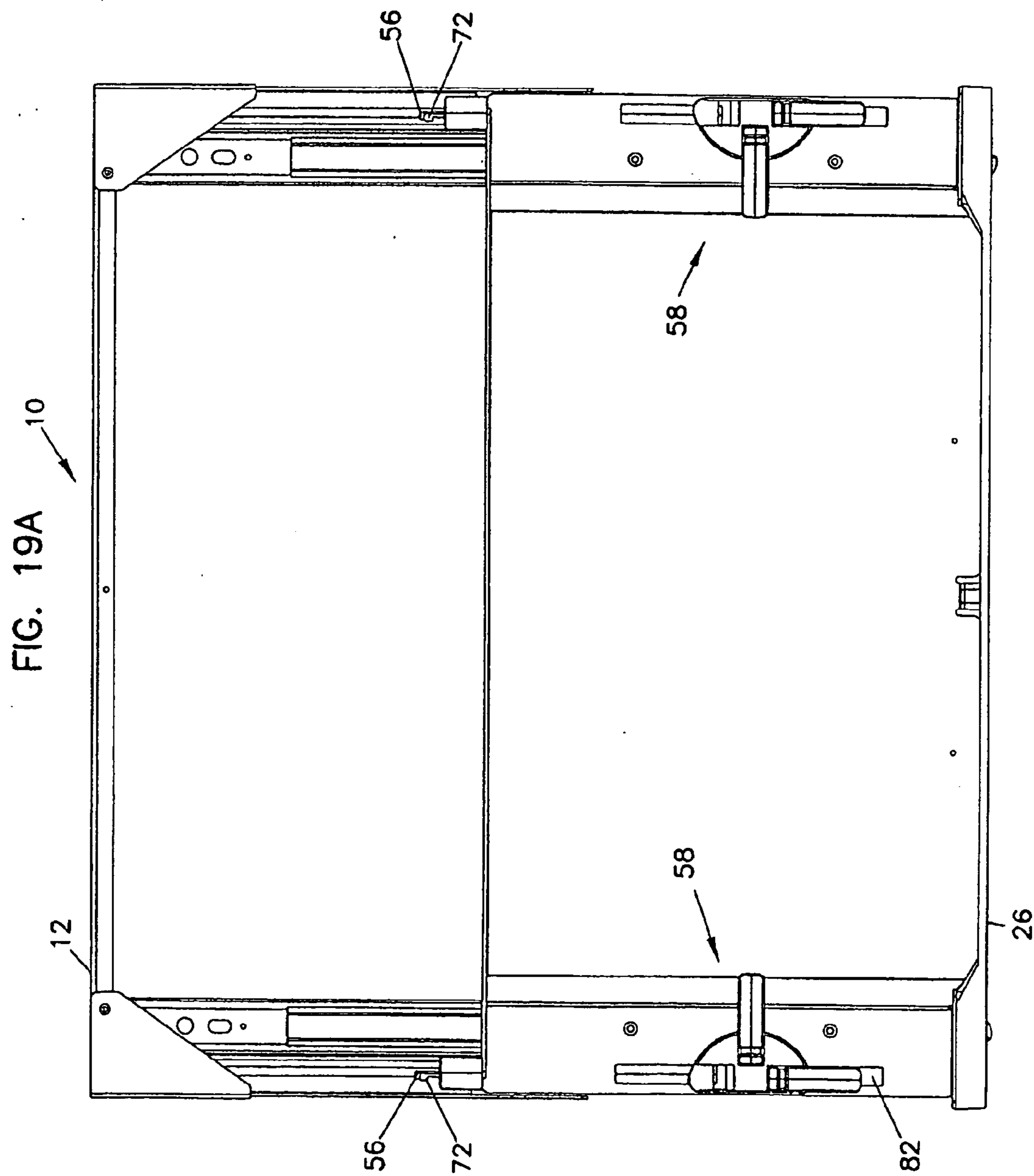


FIG. 18D







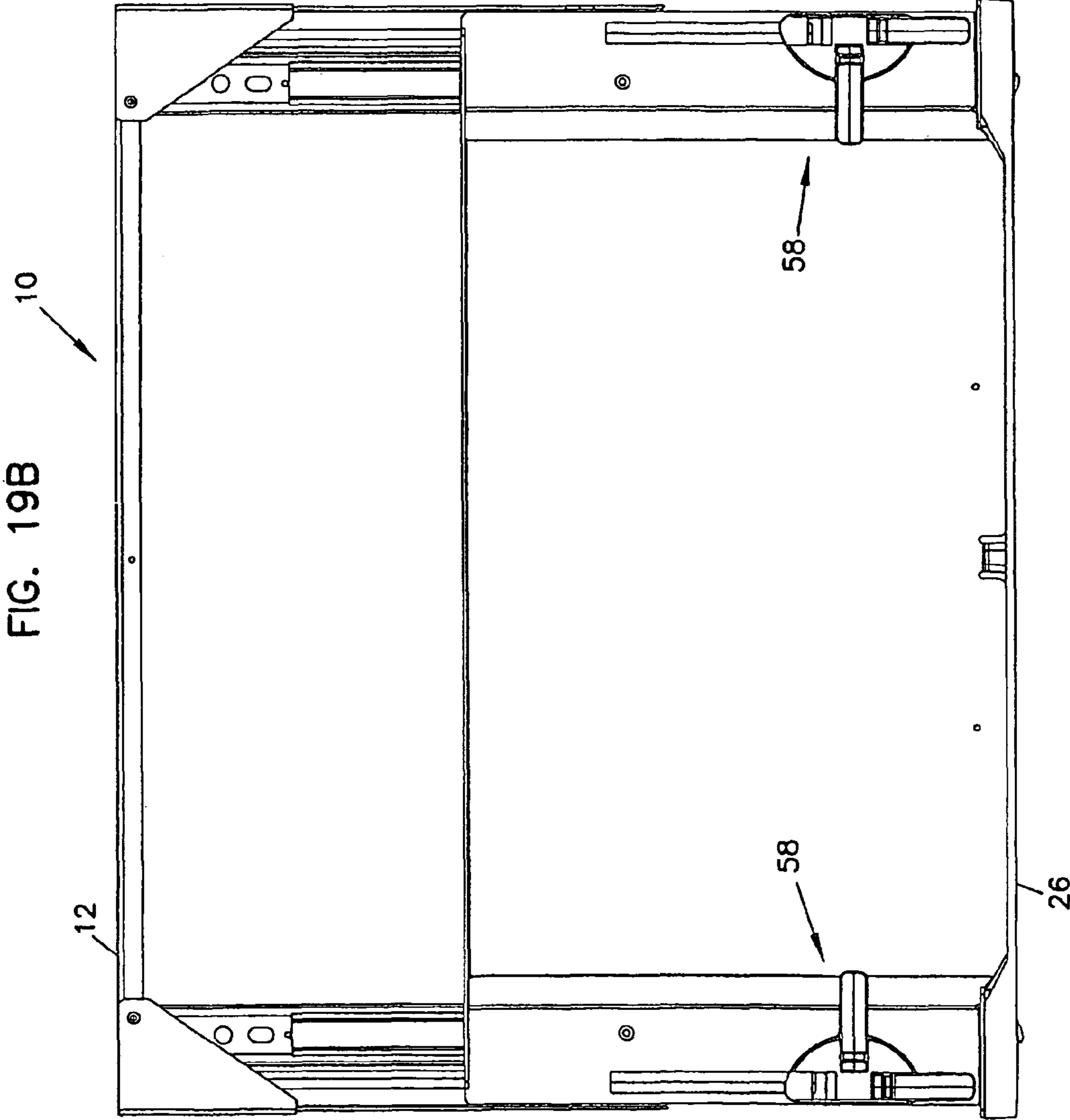


FIG. 19C

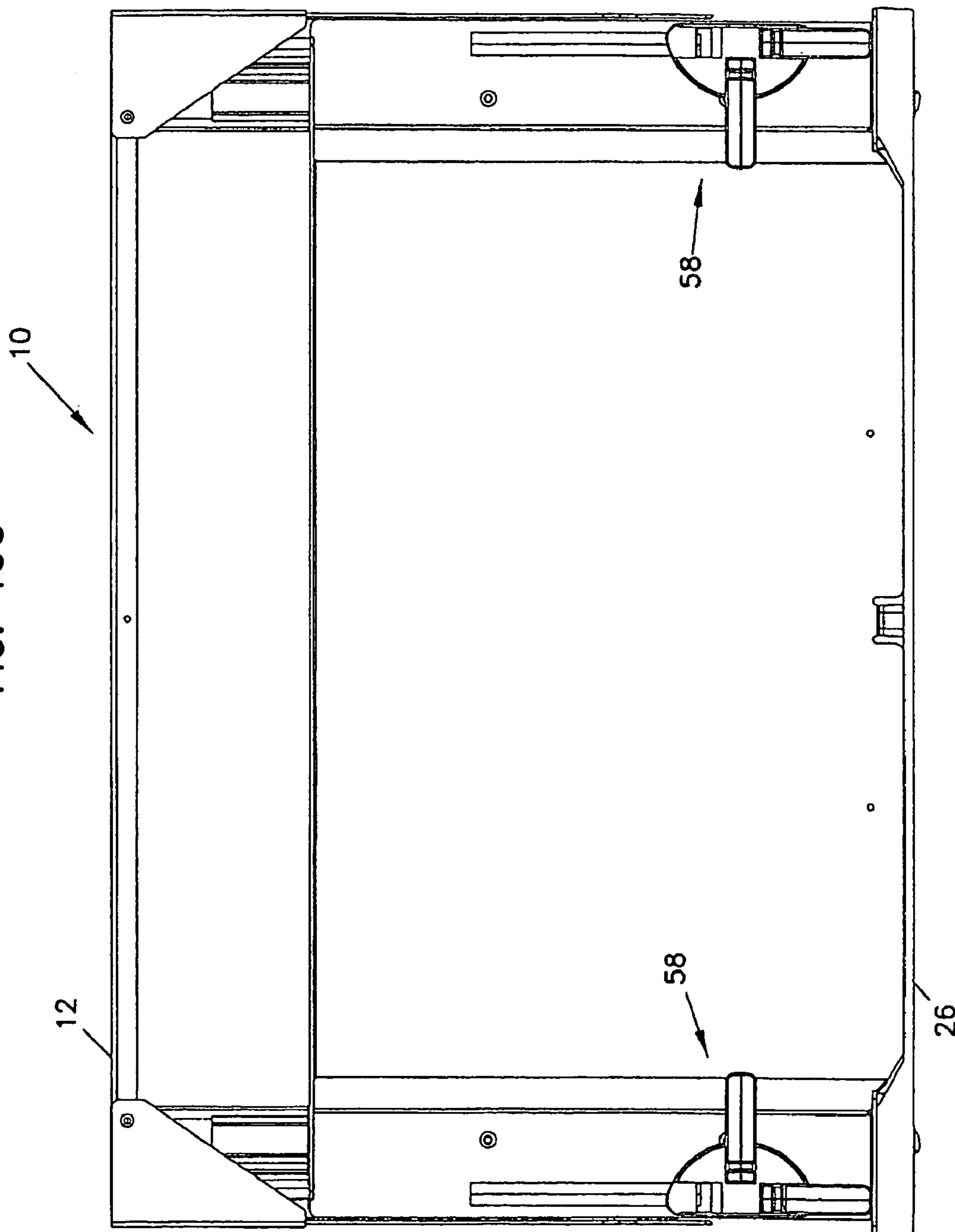
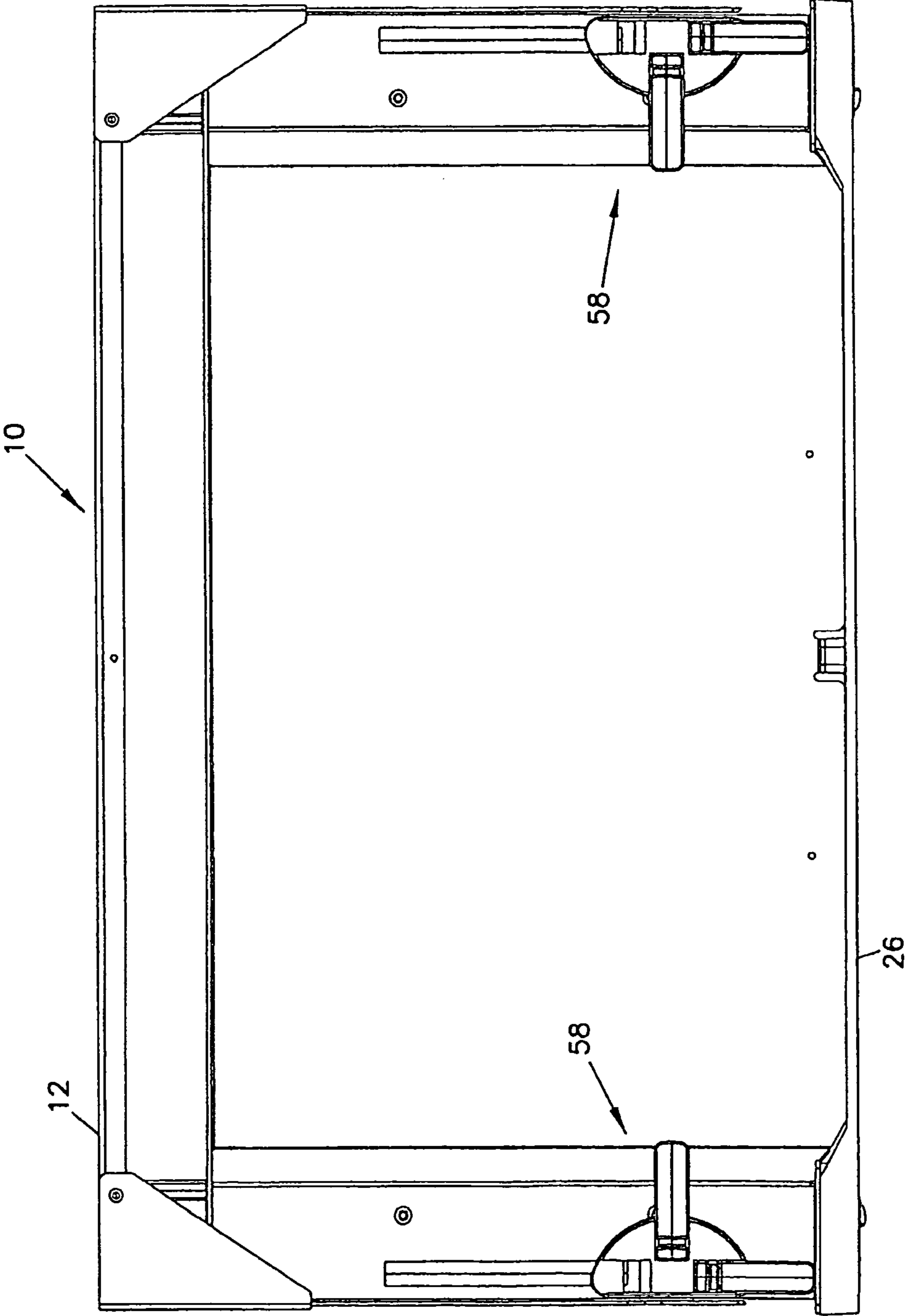
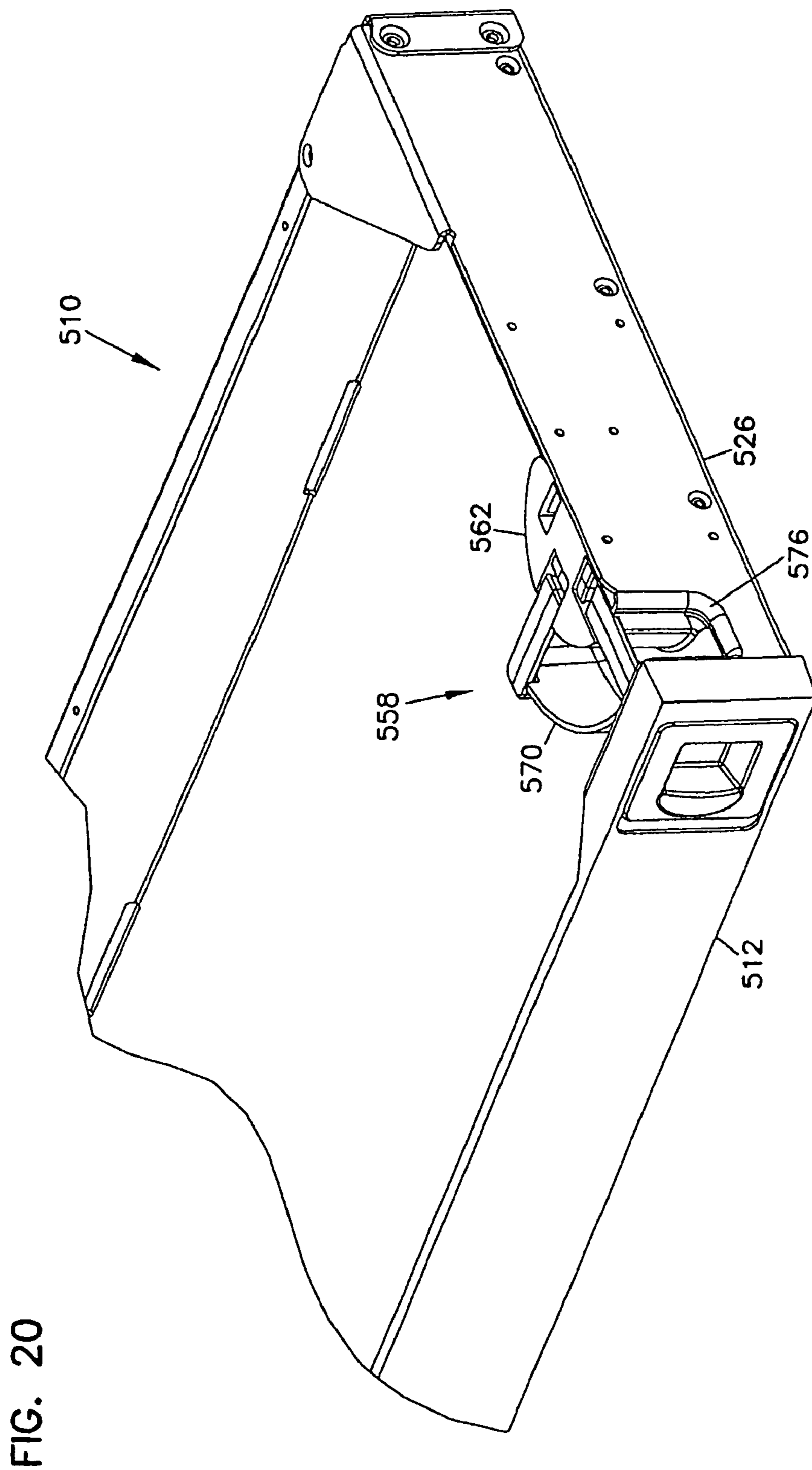


FIG. 19D





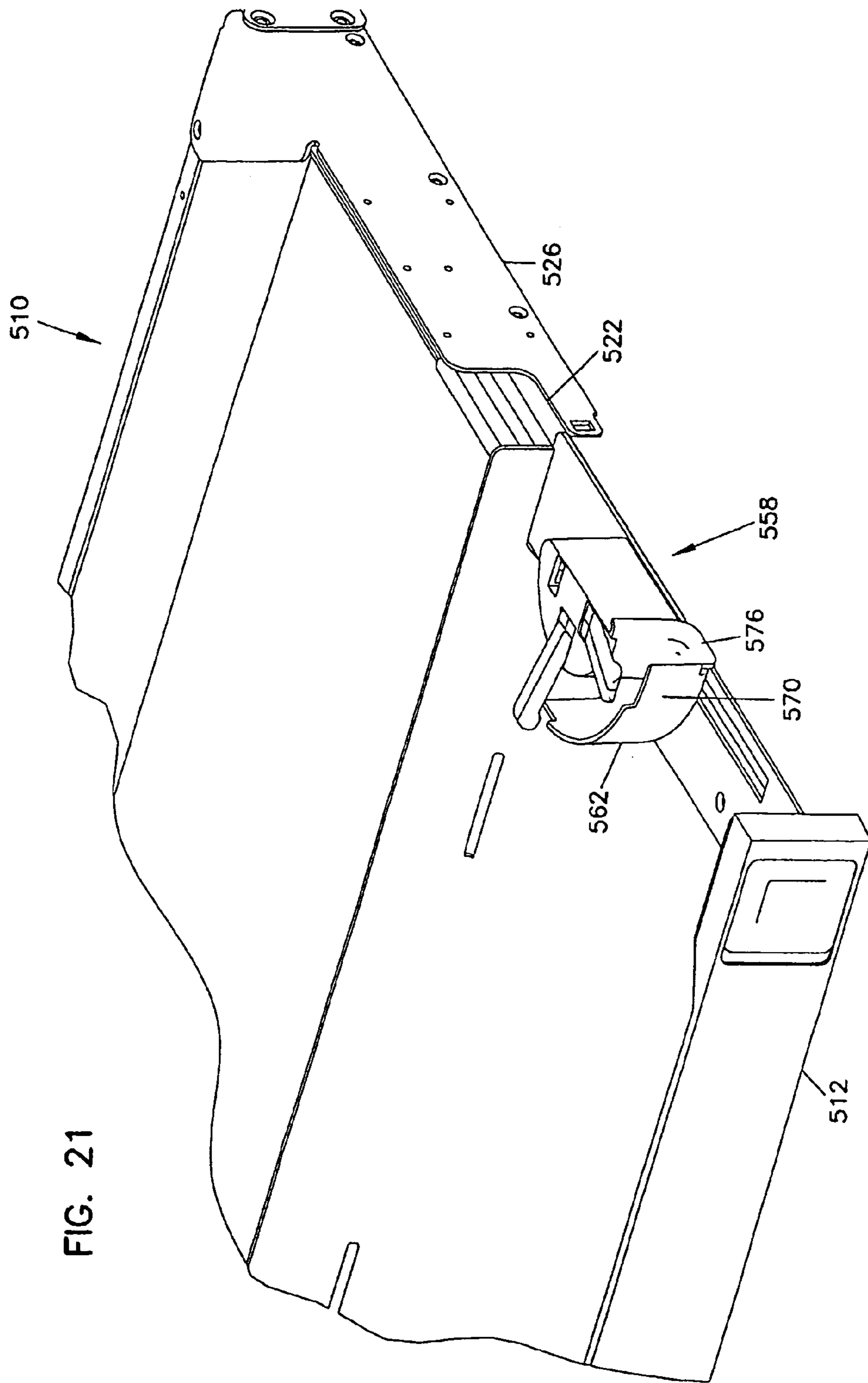


FIG. 21

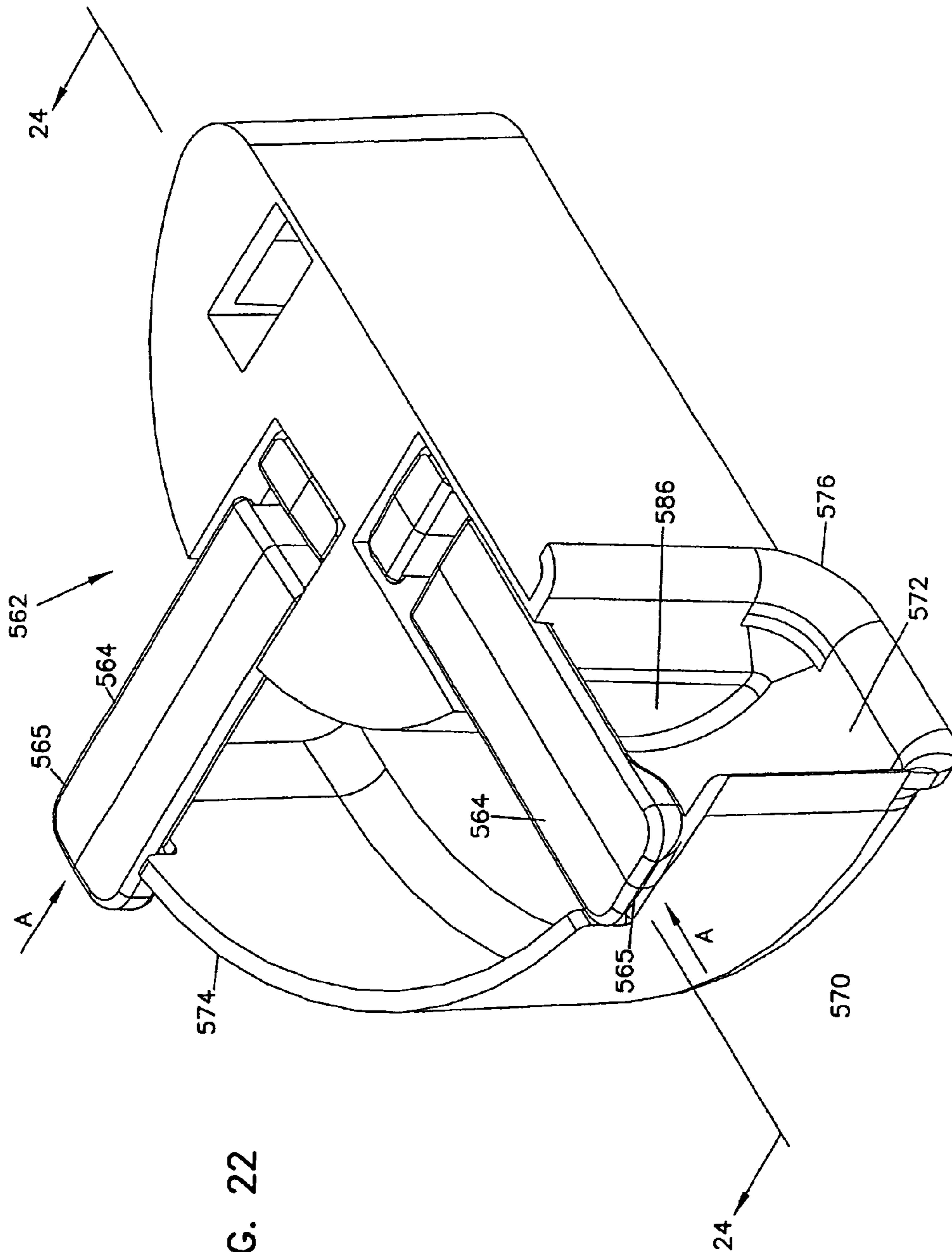
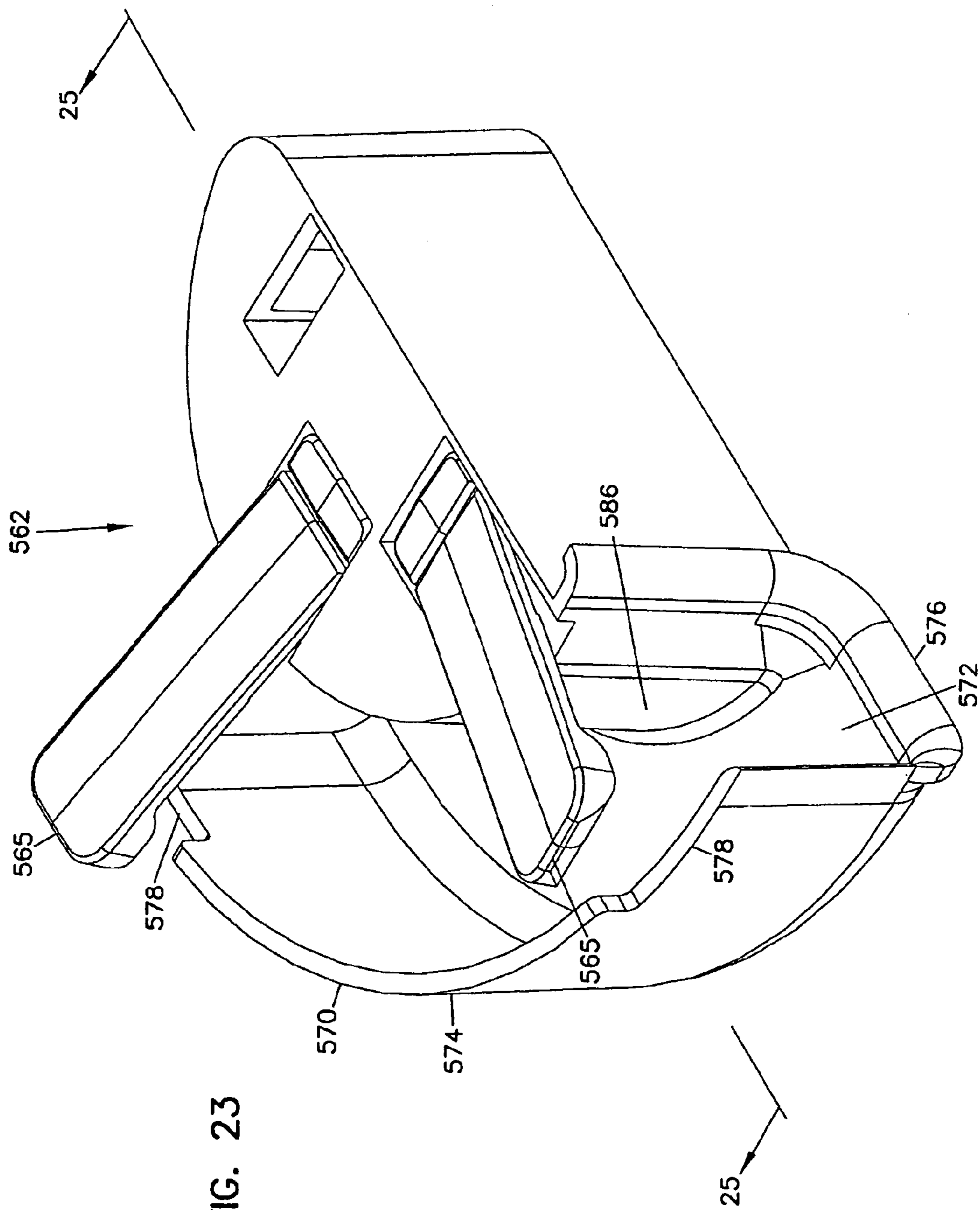


FIG. 22



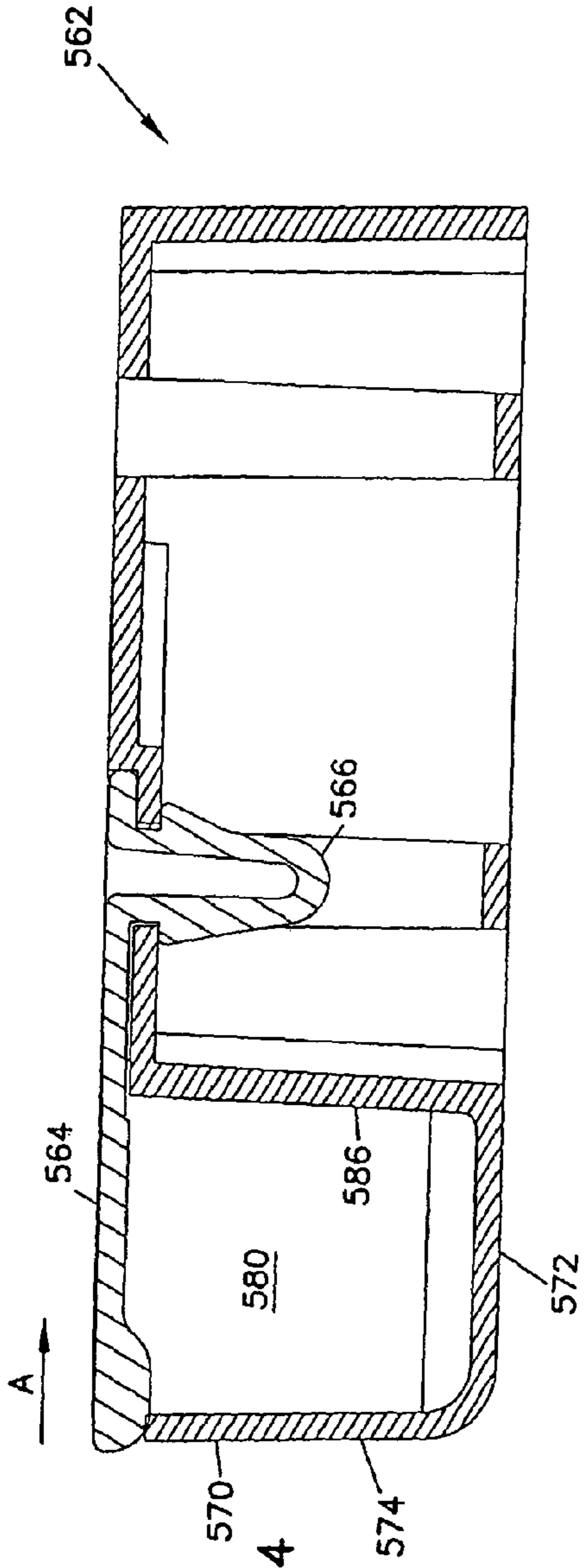


FIG. 24

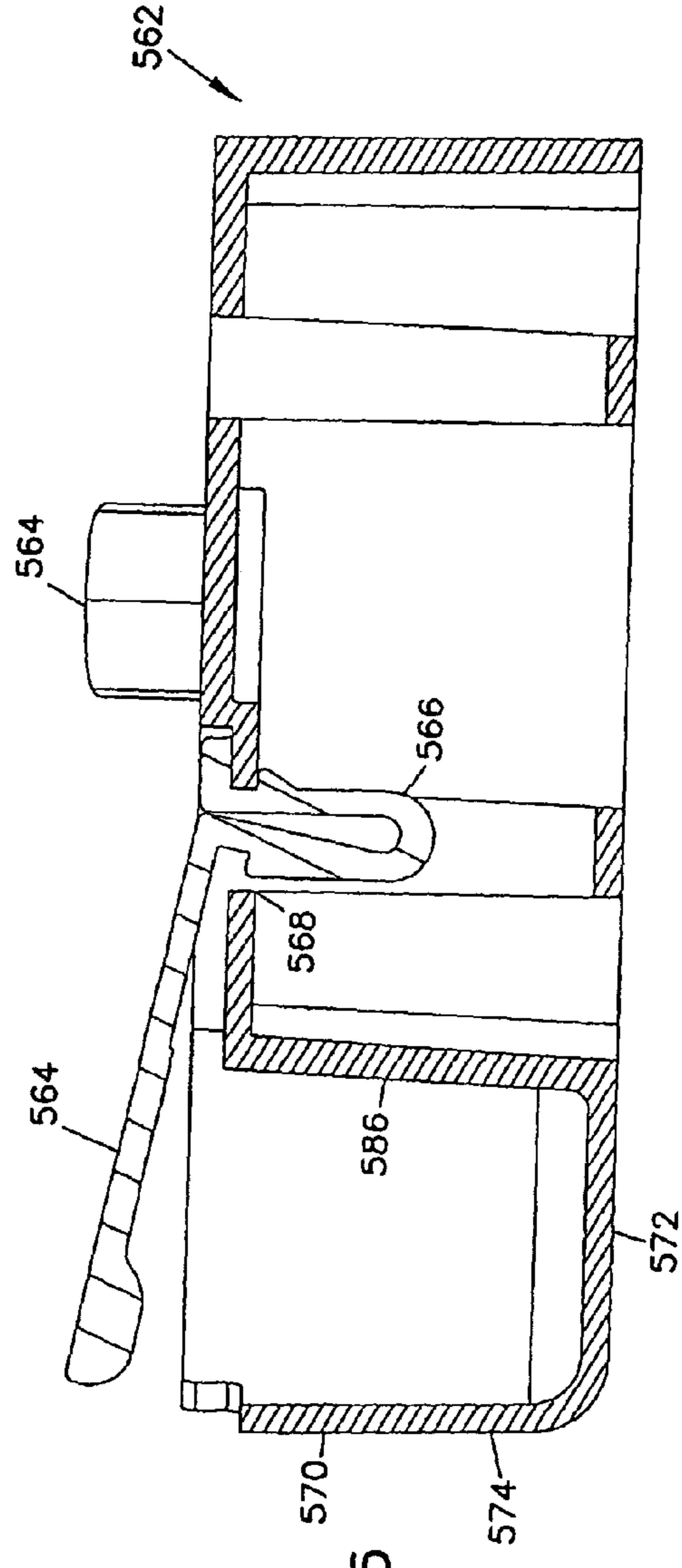


FIG. 25

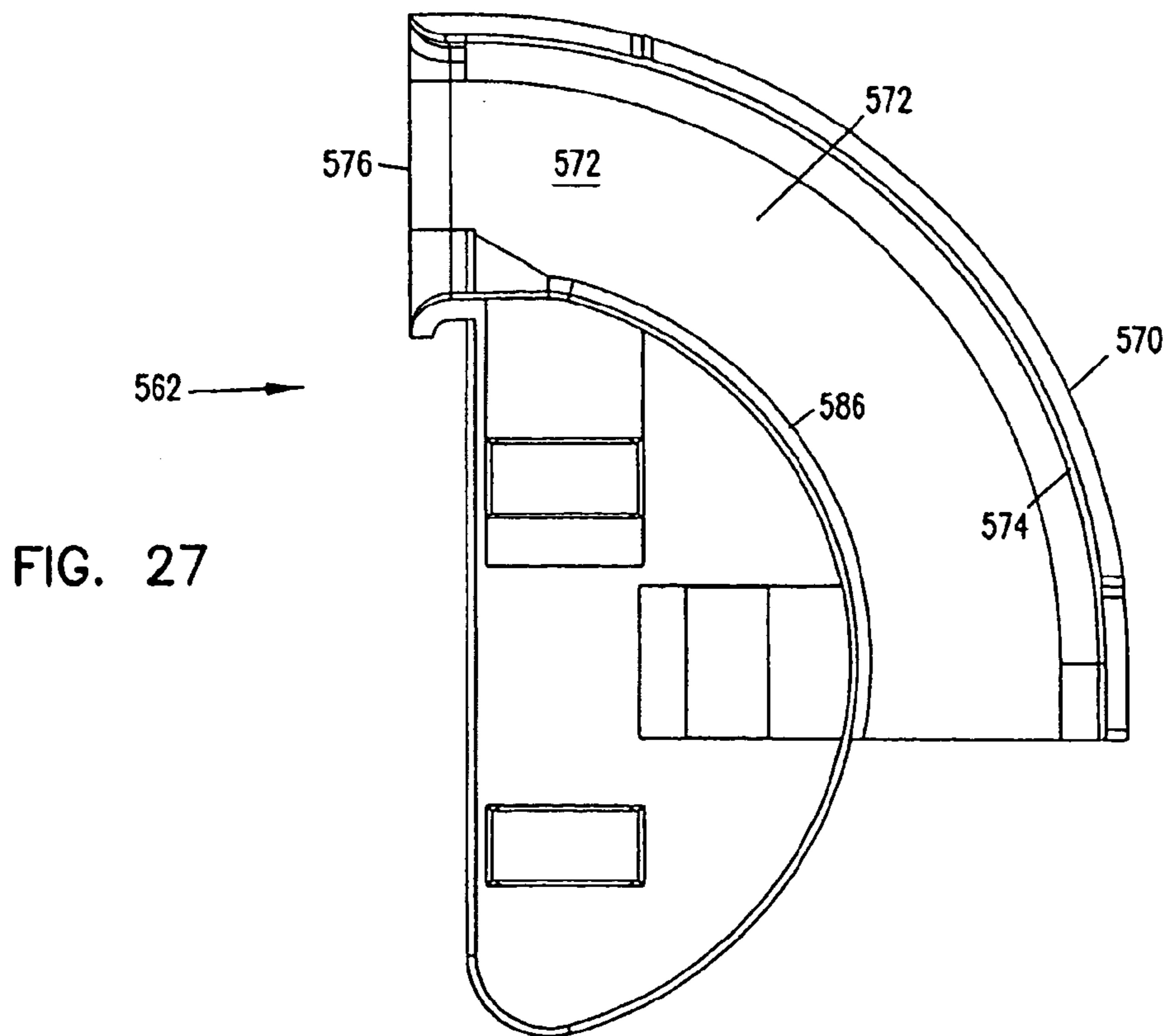
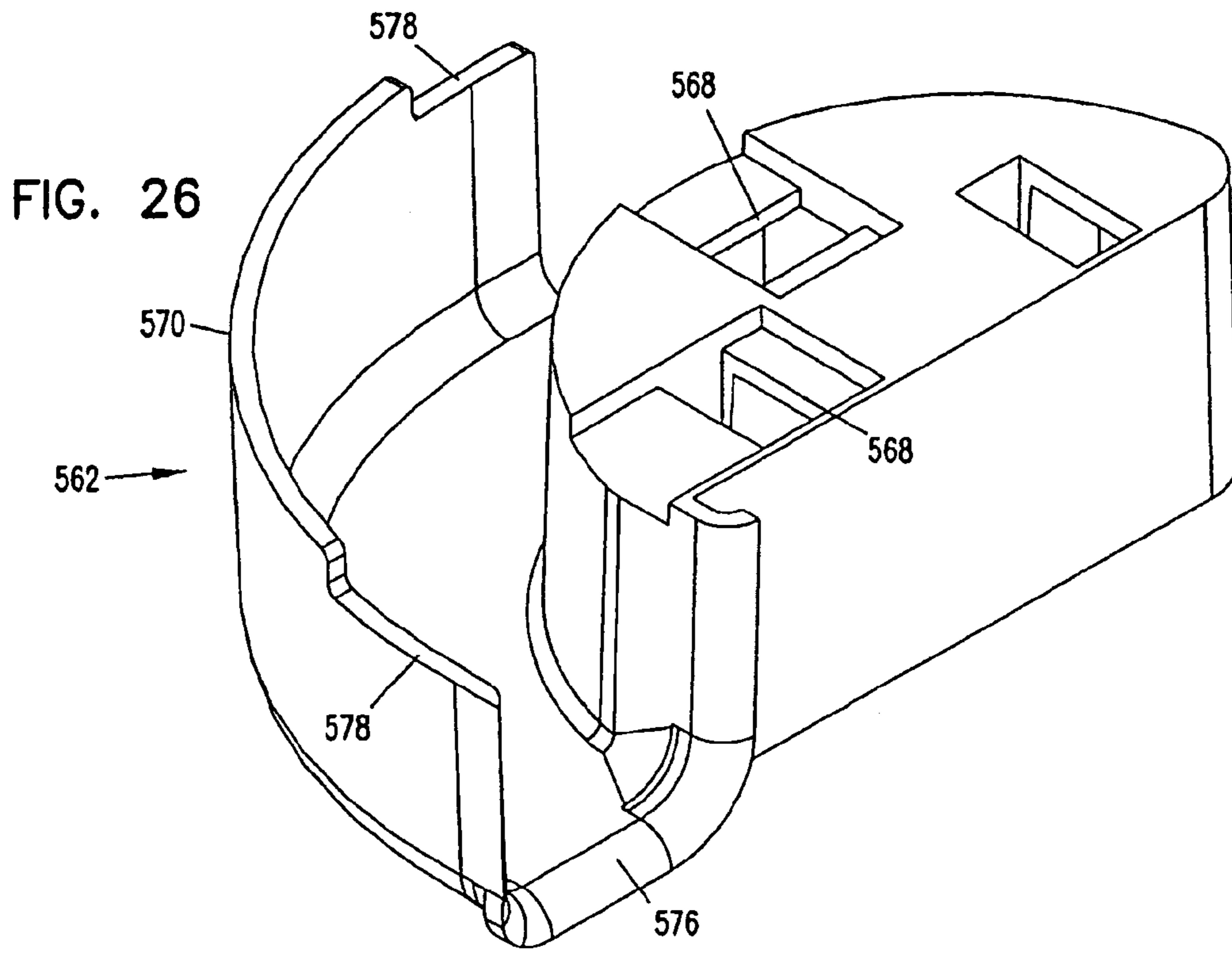
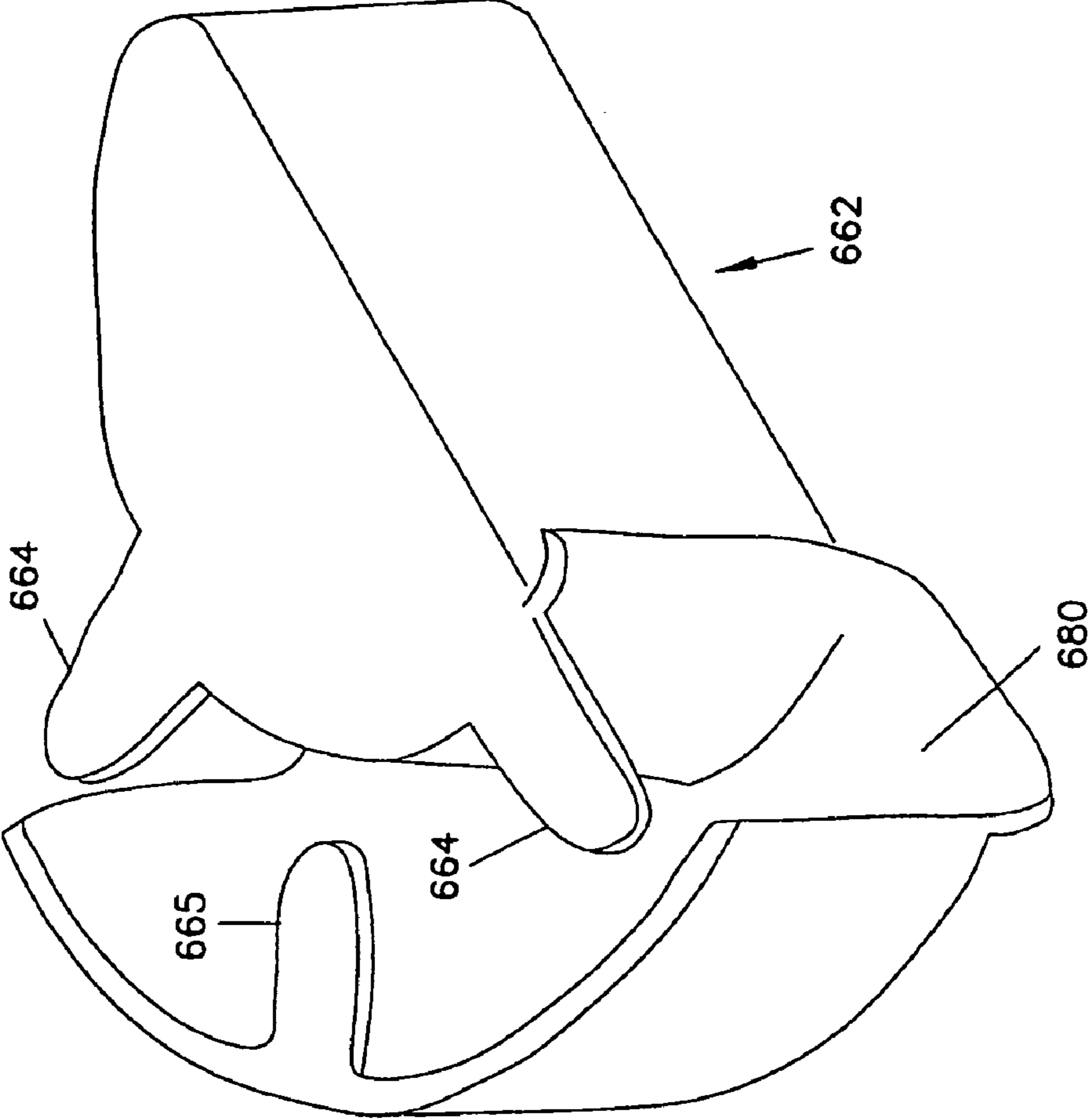


FIG. 28



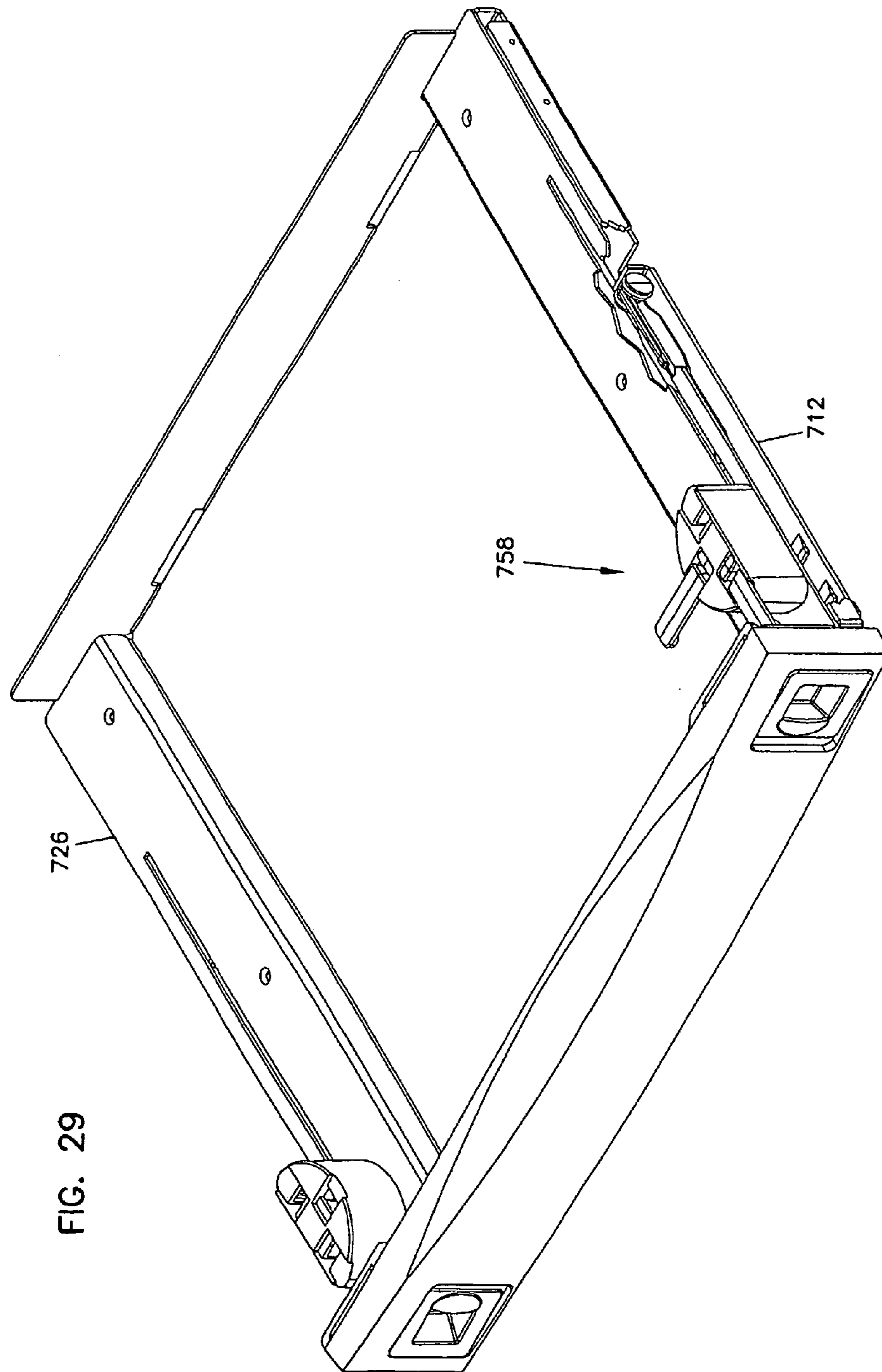


FIG. 29

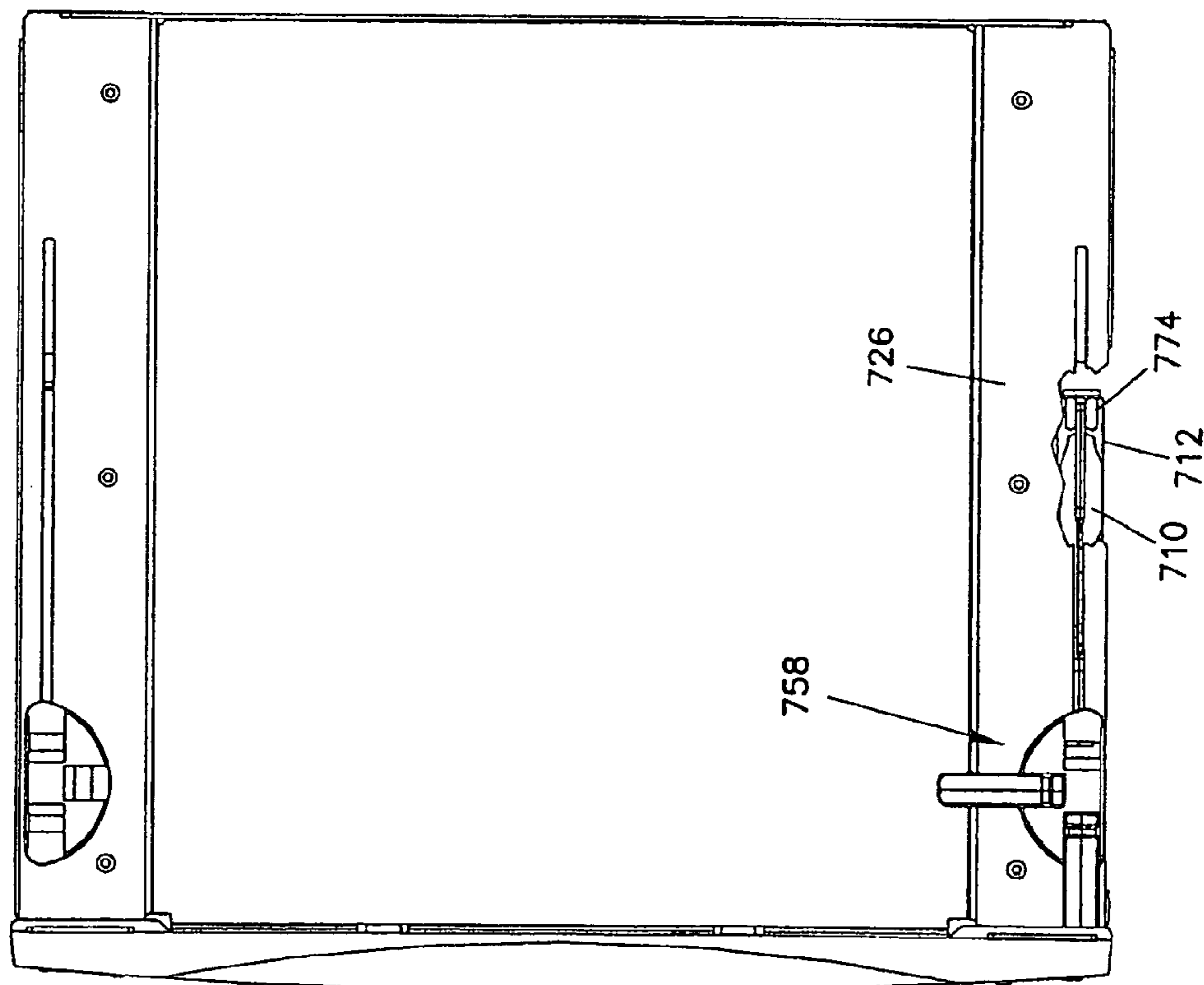


FIG. 30

FIG. 31

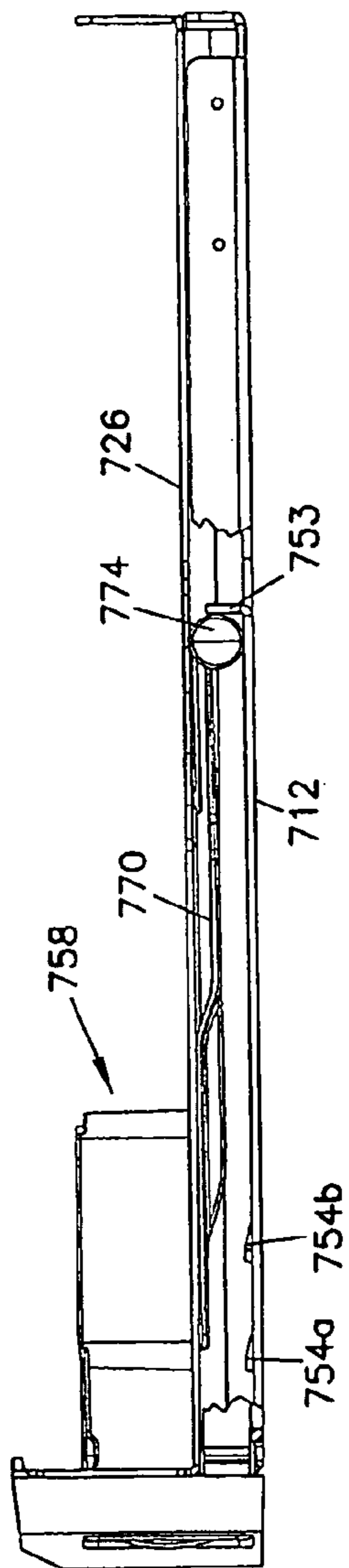
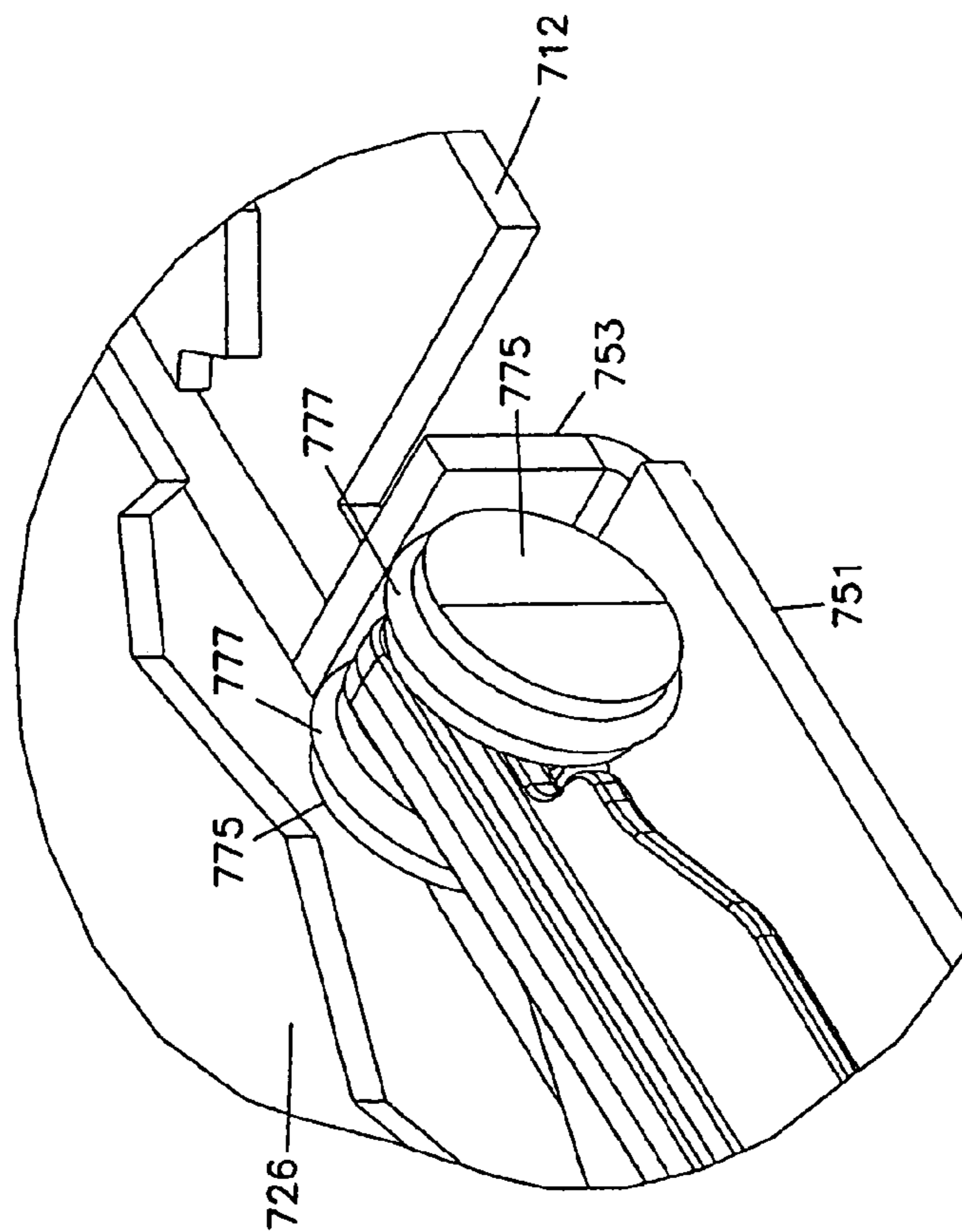


FIG. 32



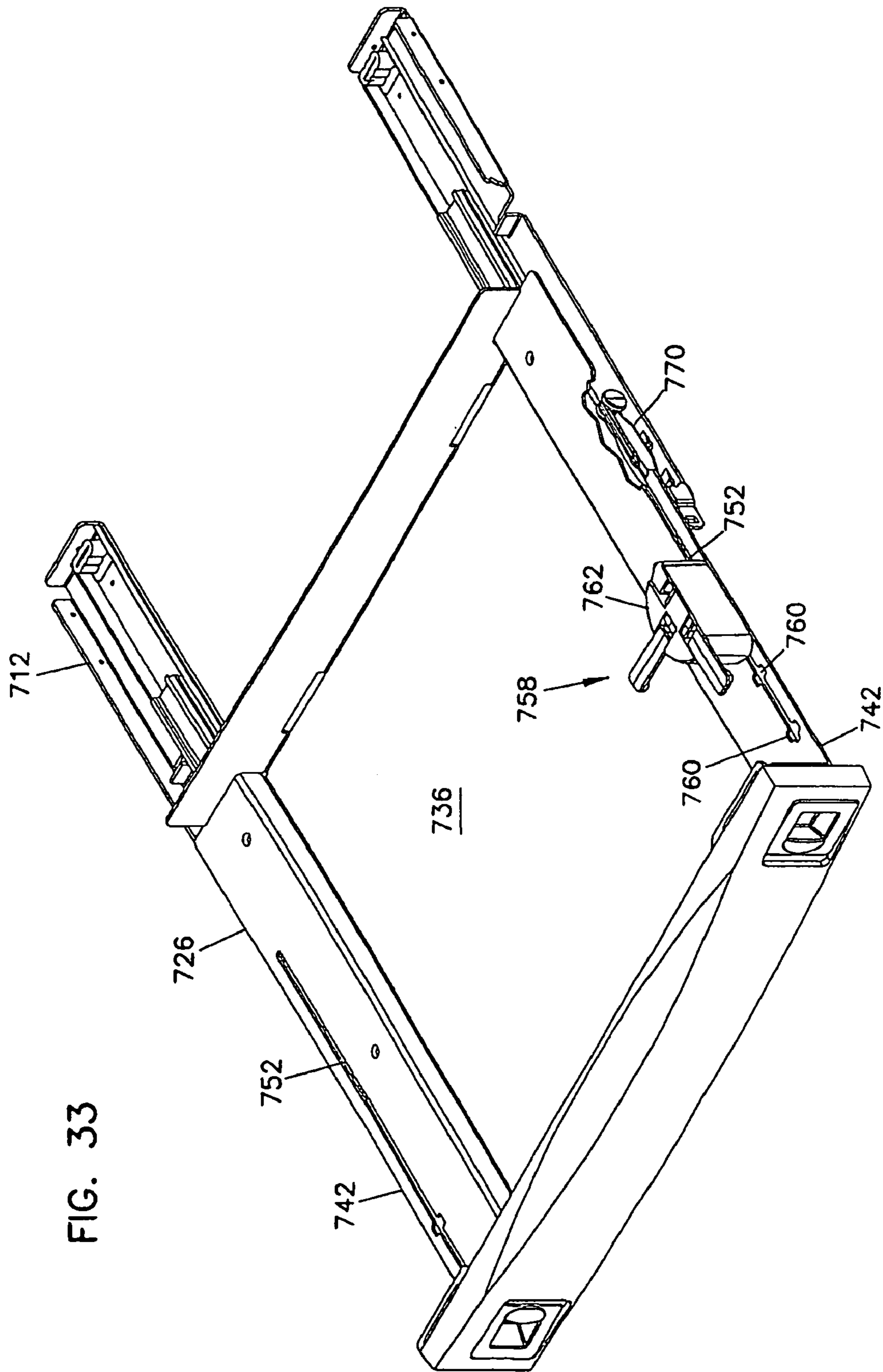


FIG. 33

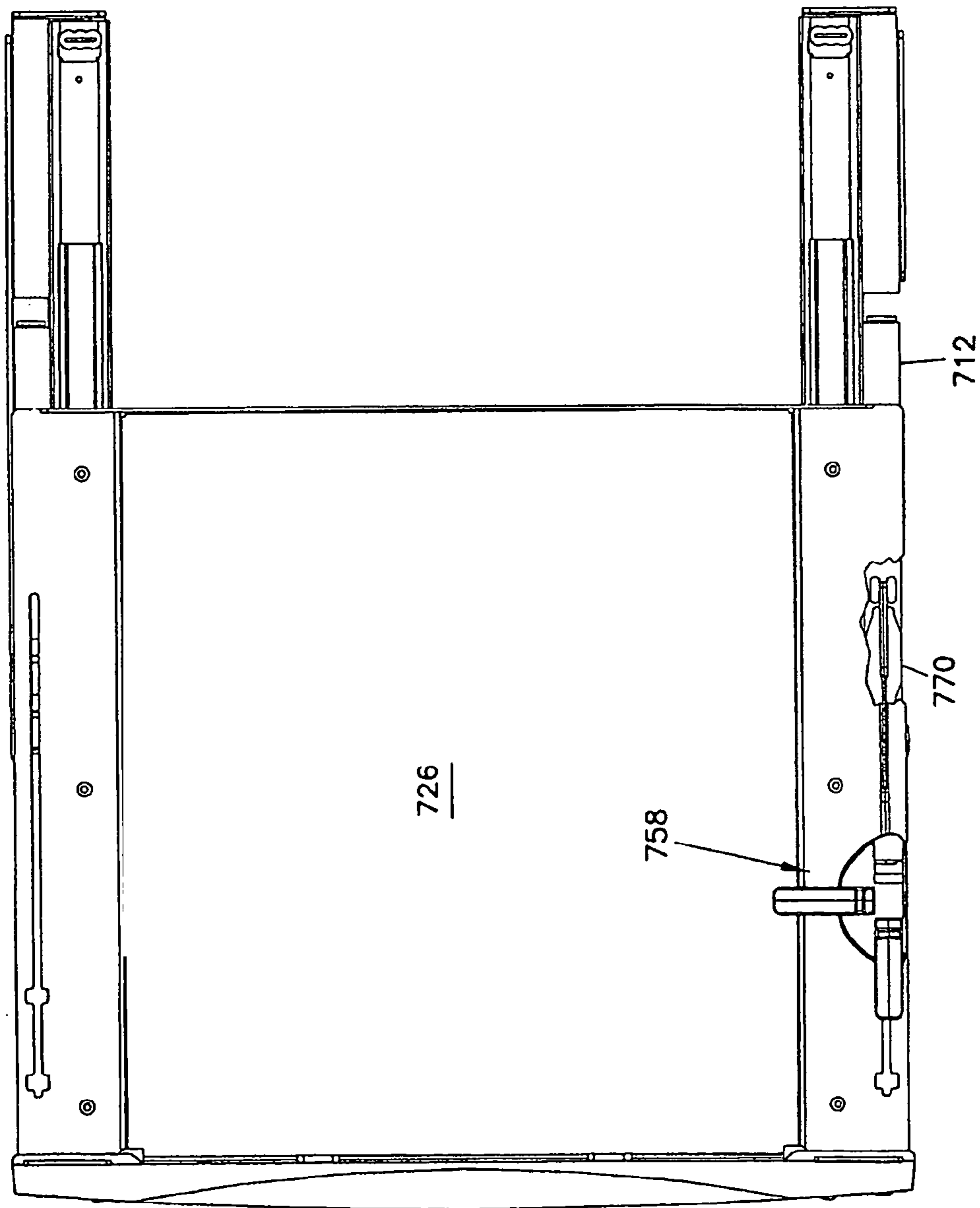
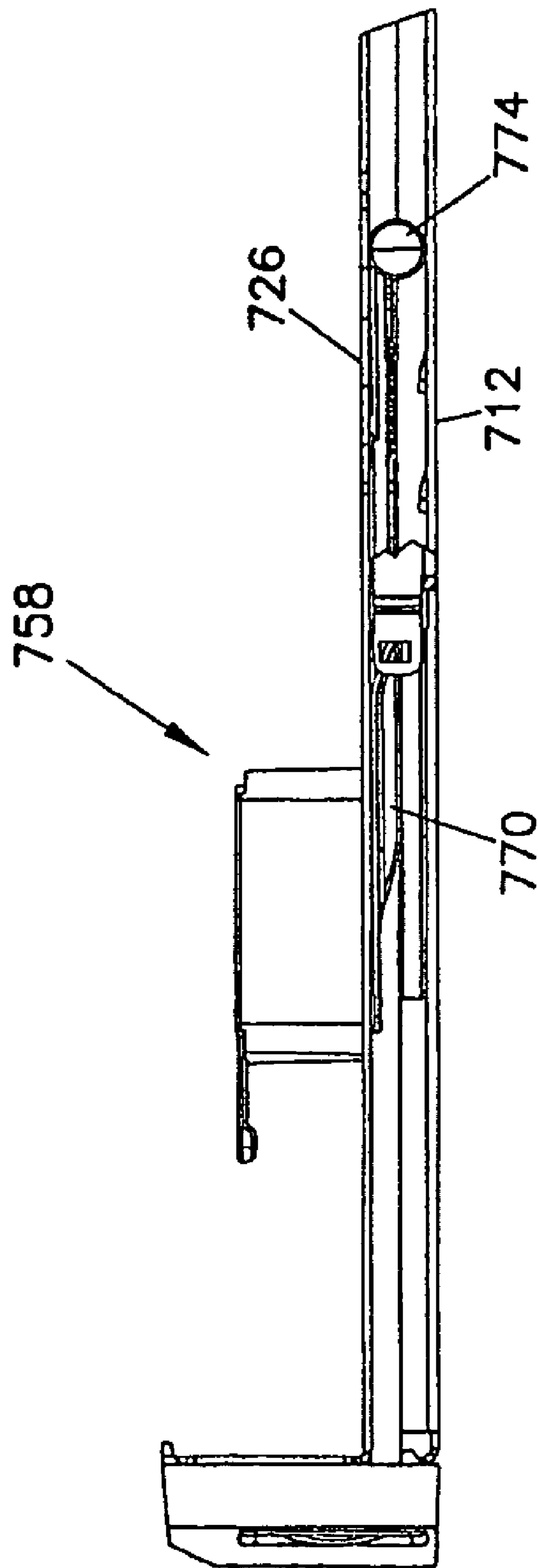


FIG. 34

FIG. 35



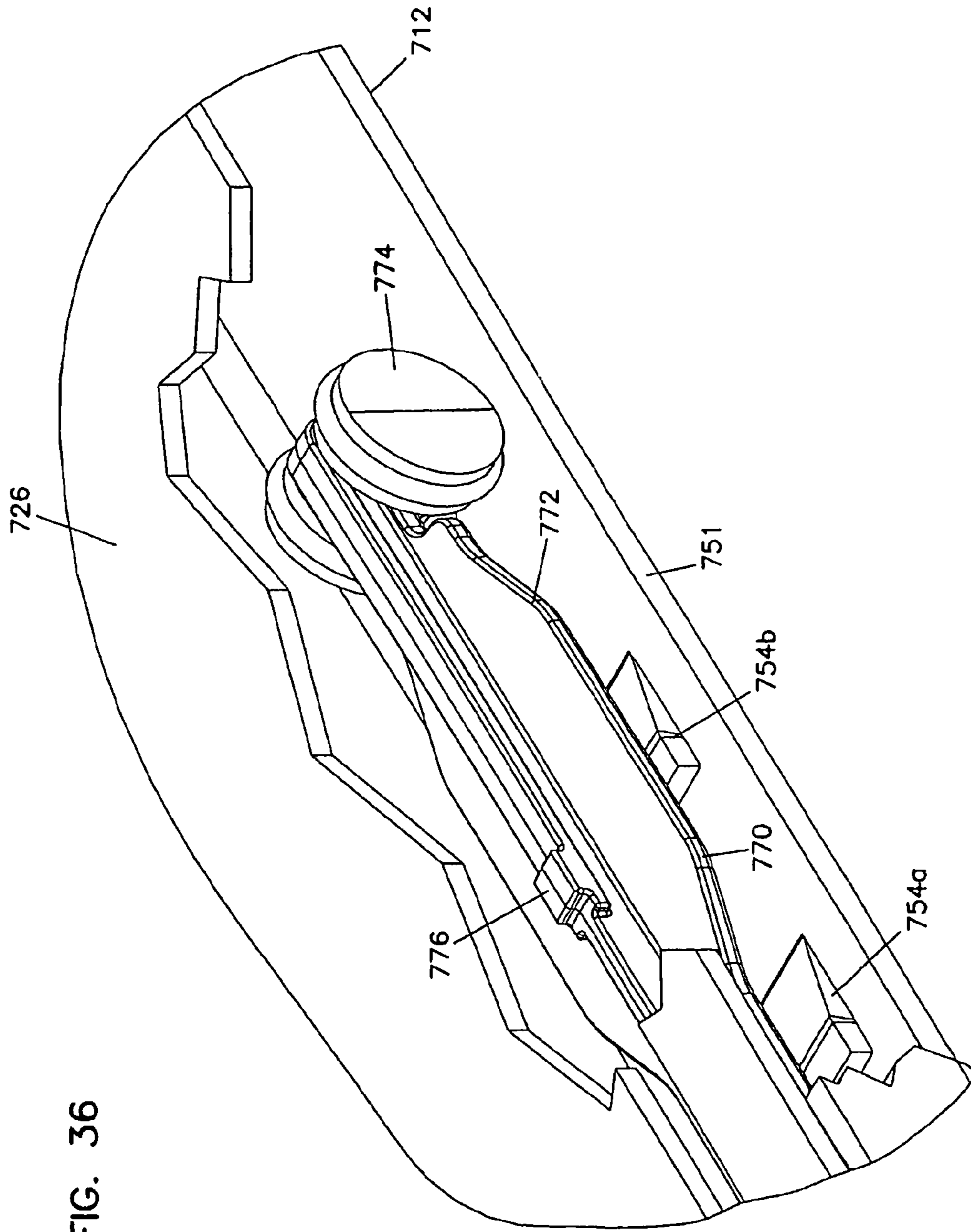


FIG. 36

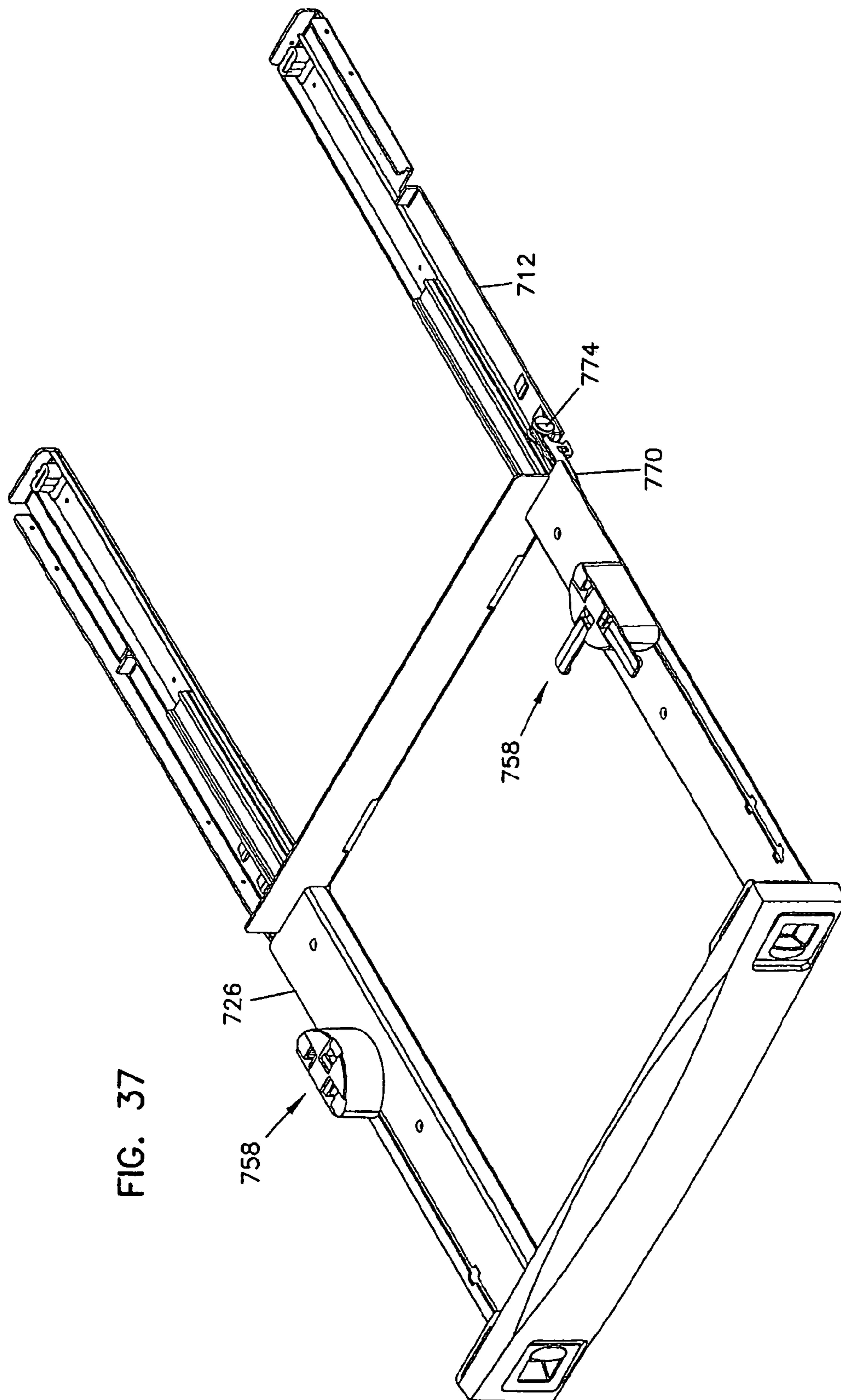


FIG. 37

FIG. 38

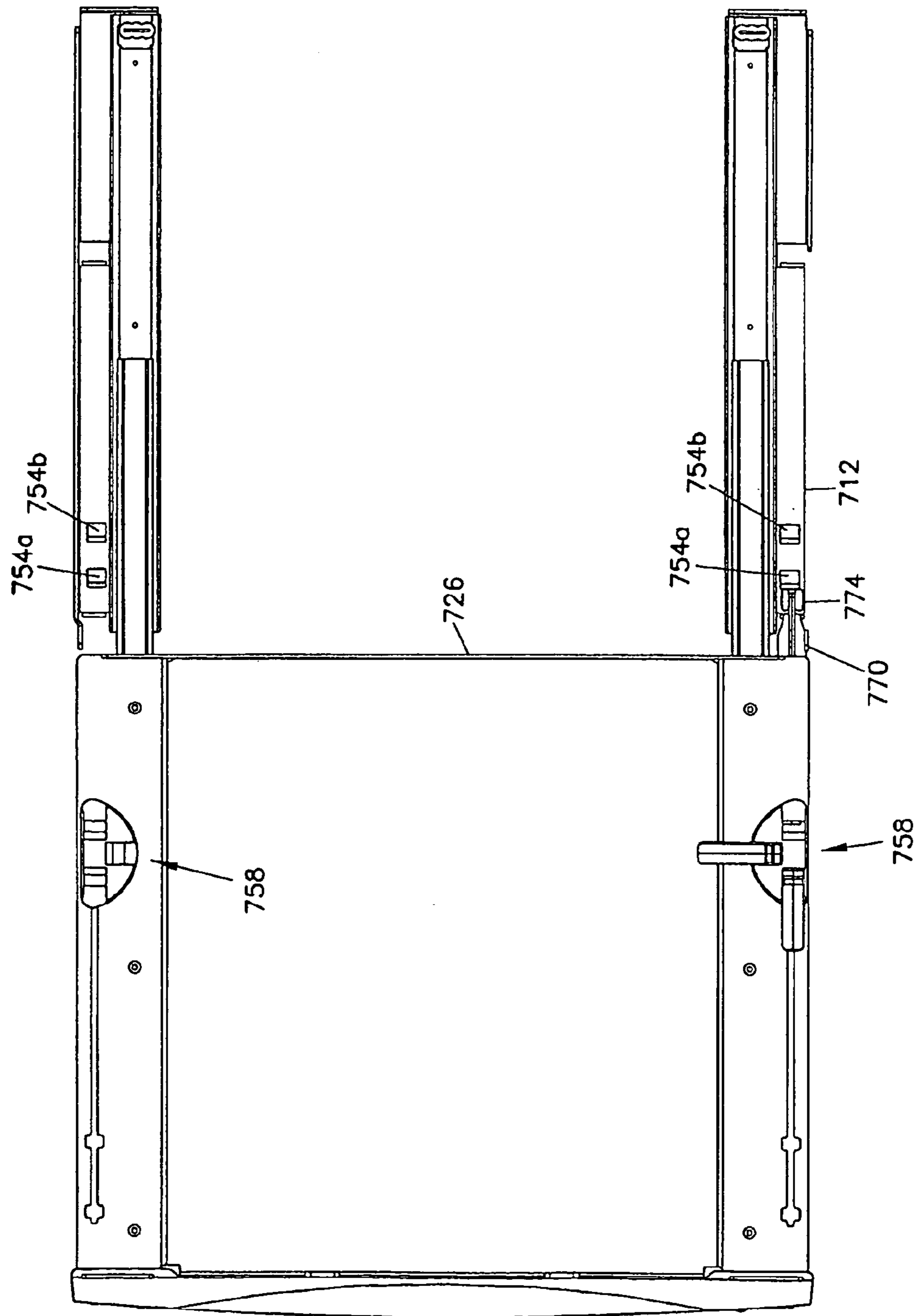


FIG. 39

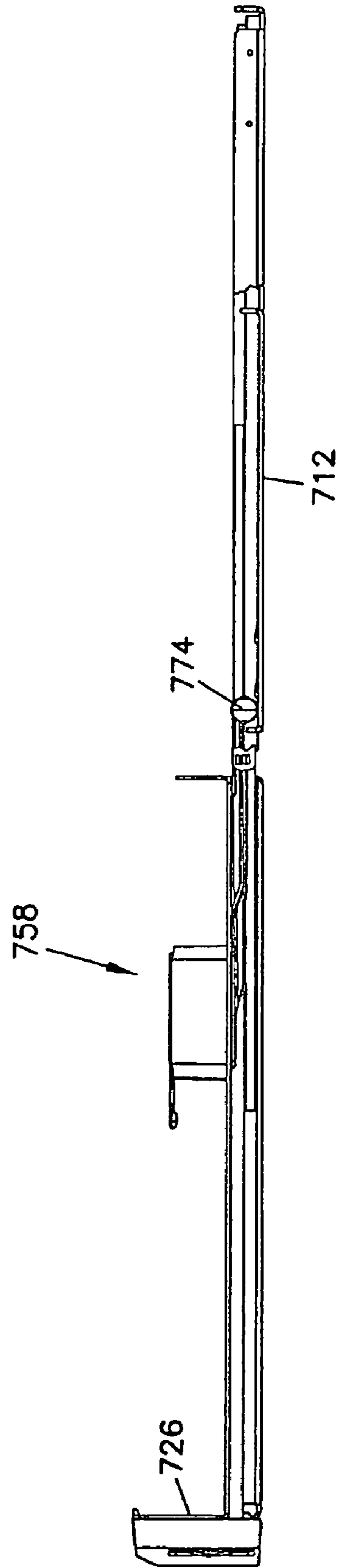


FIG. 40

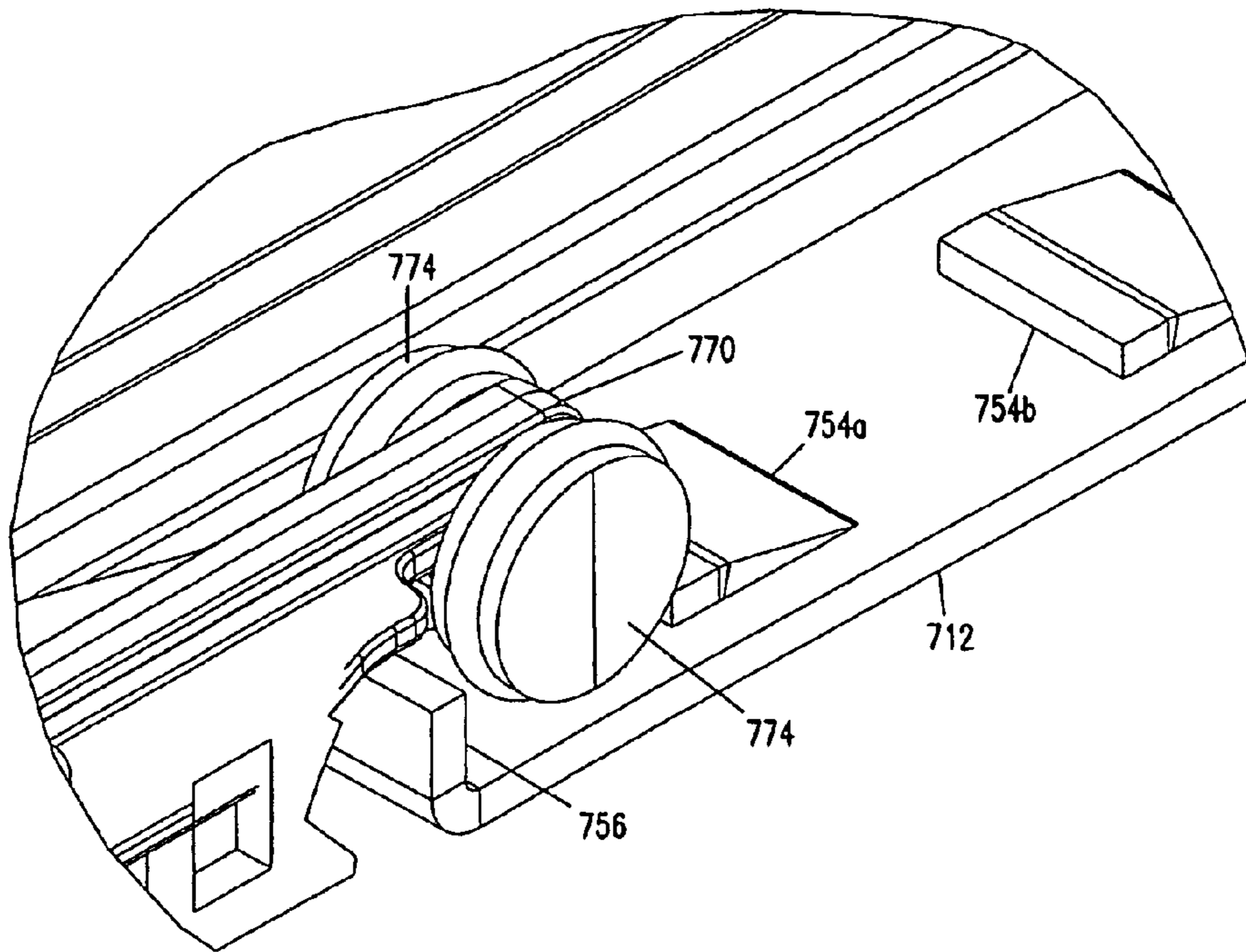


FIG. 41

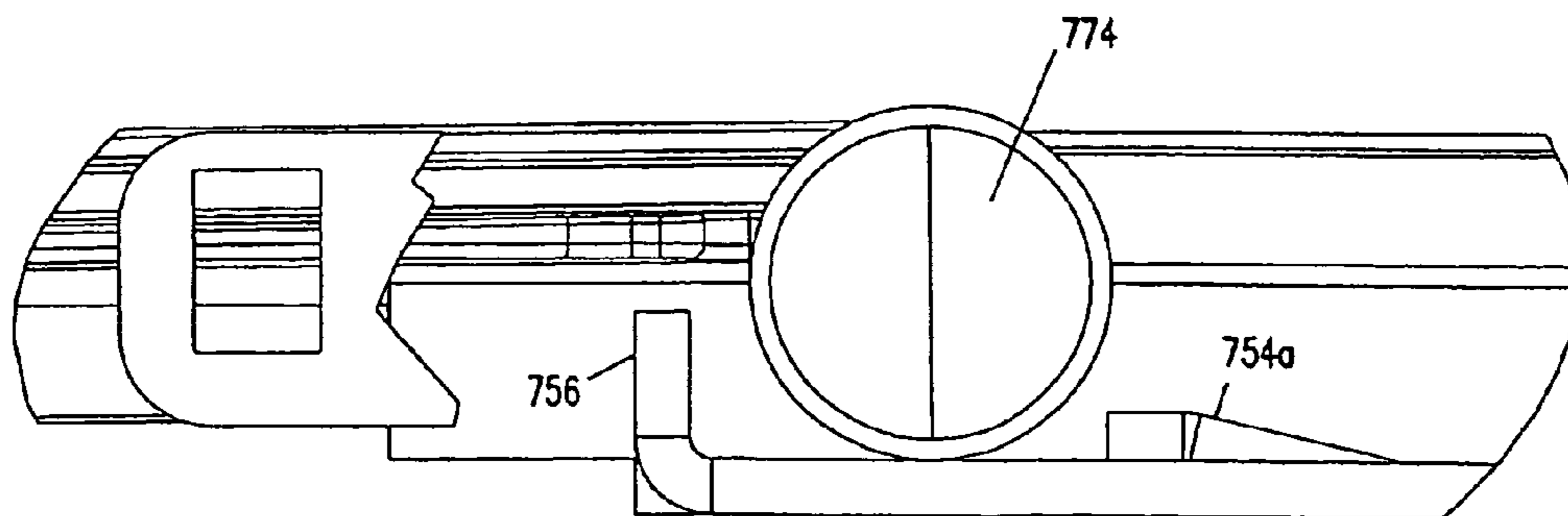
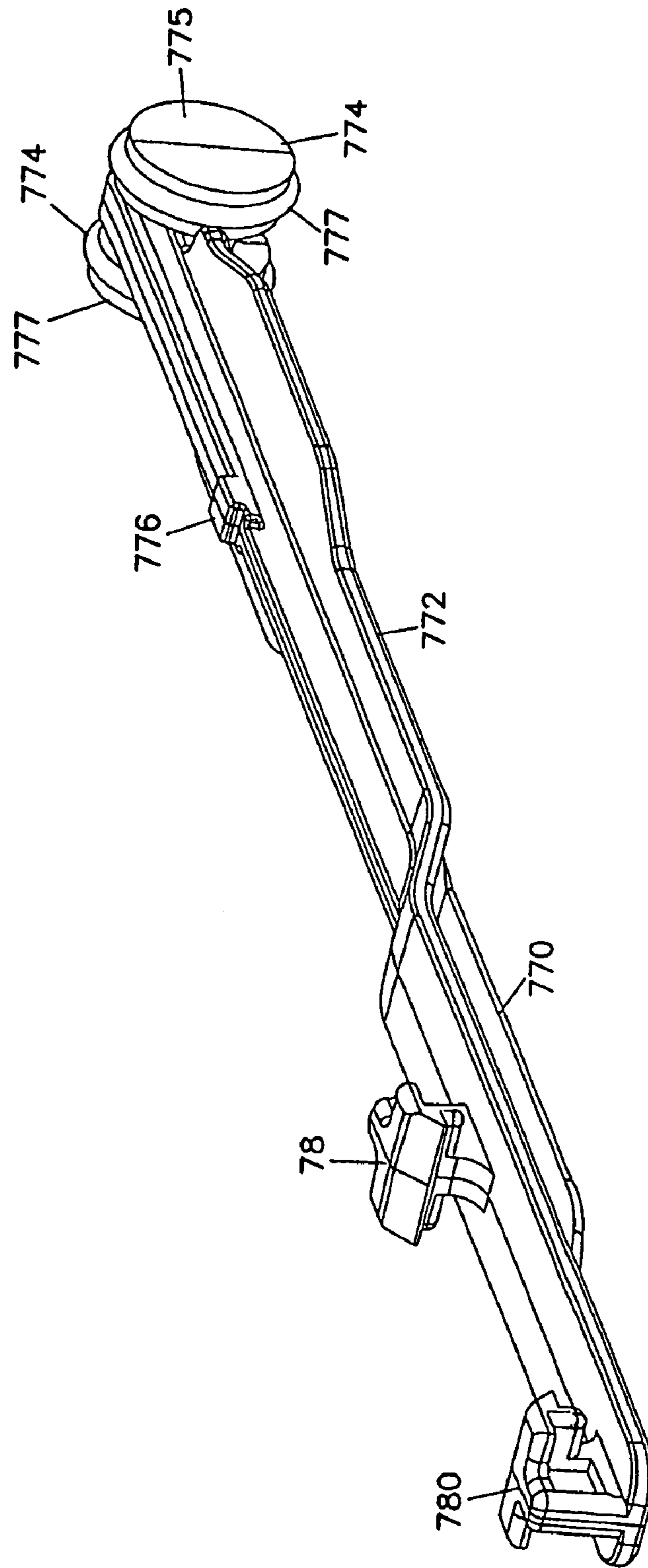


FIG. 41A



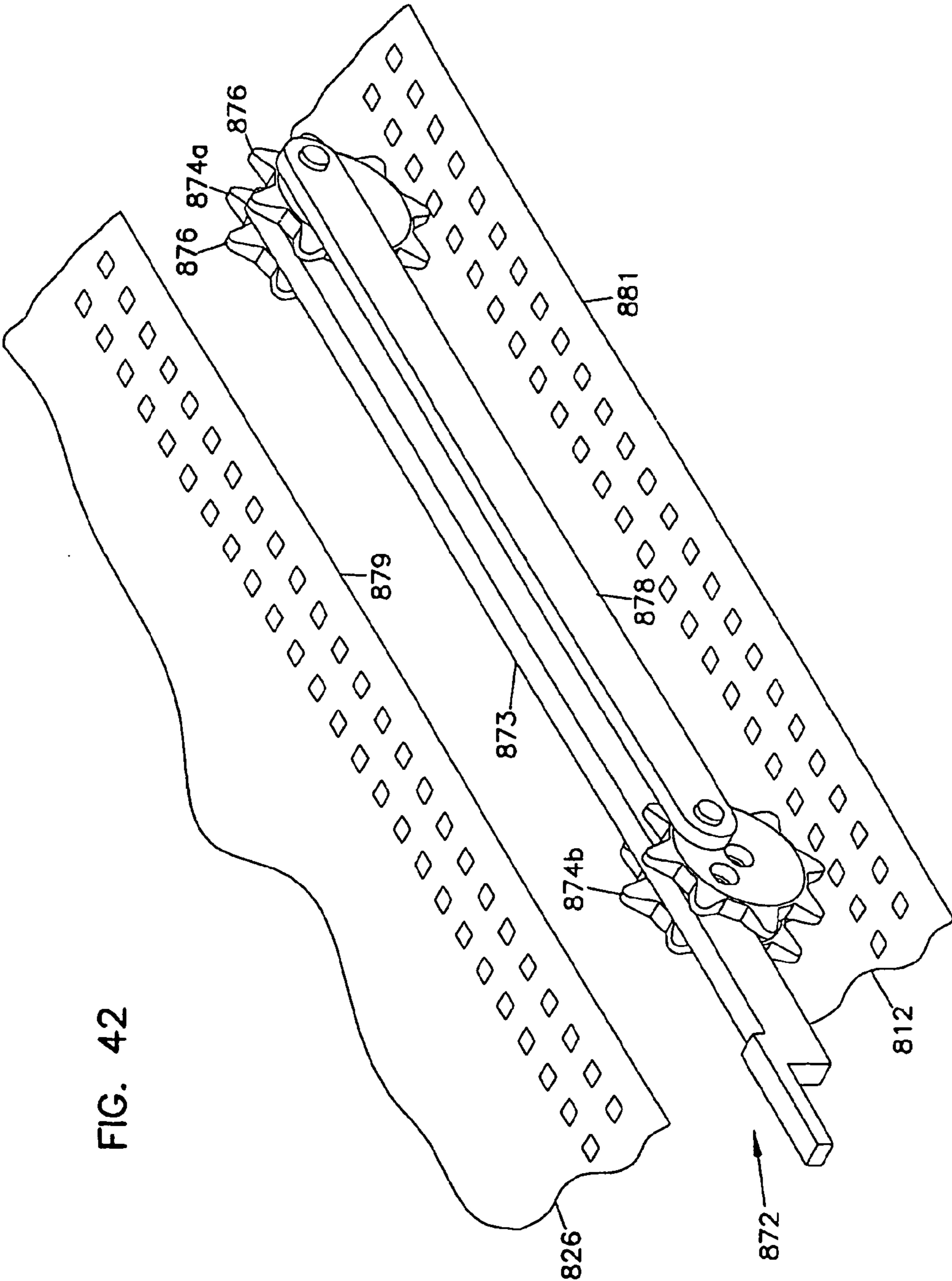
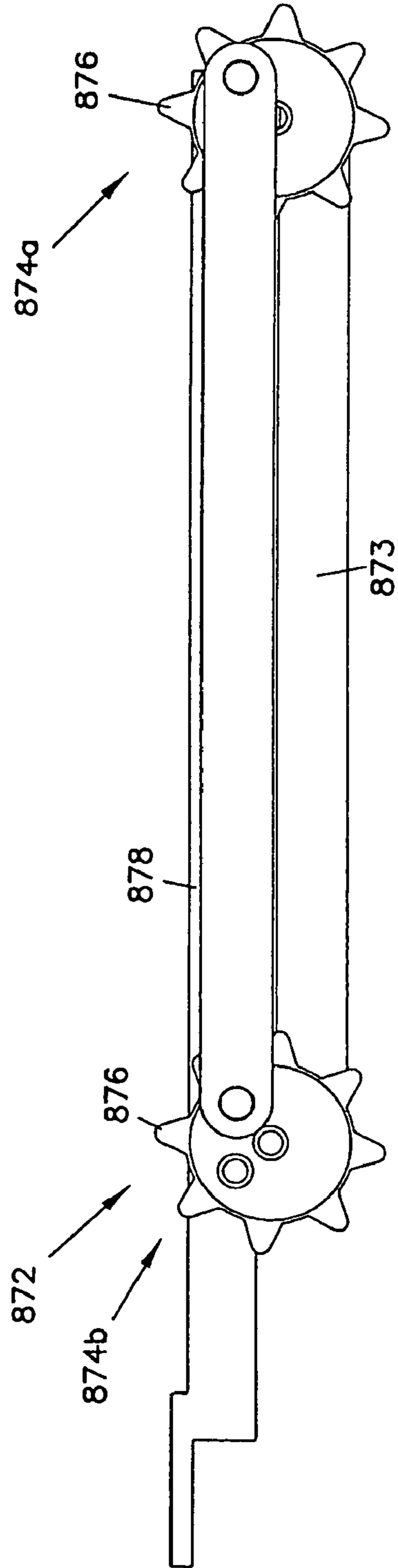
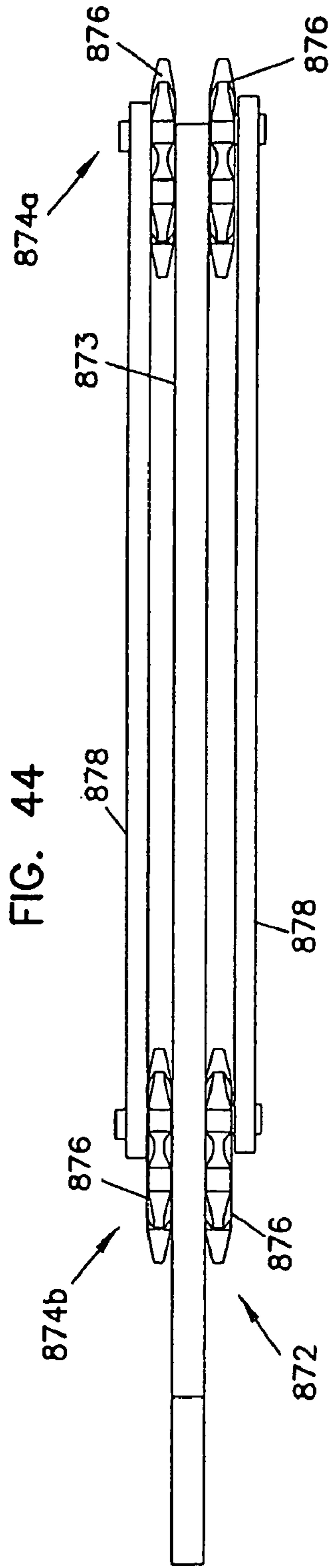


FIG. 42



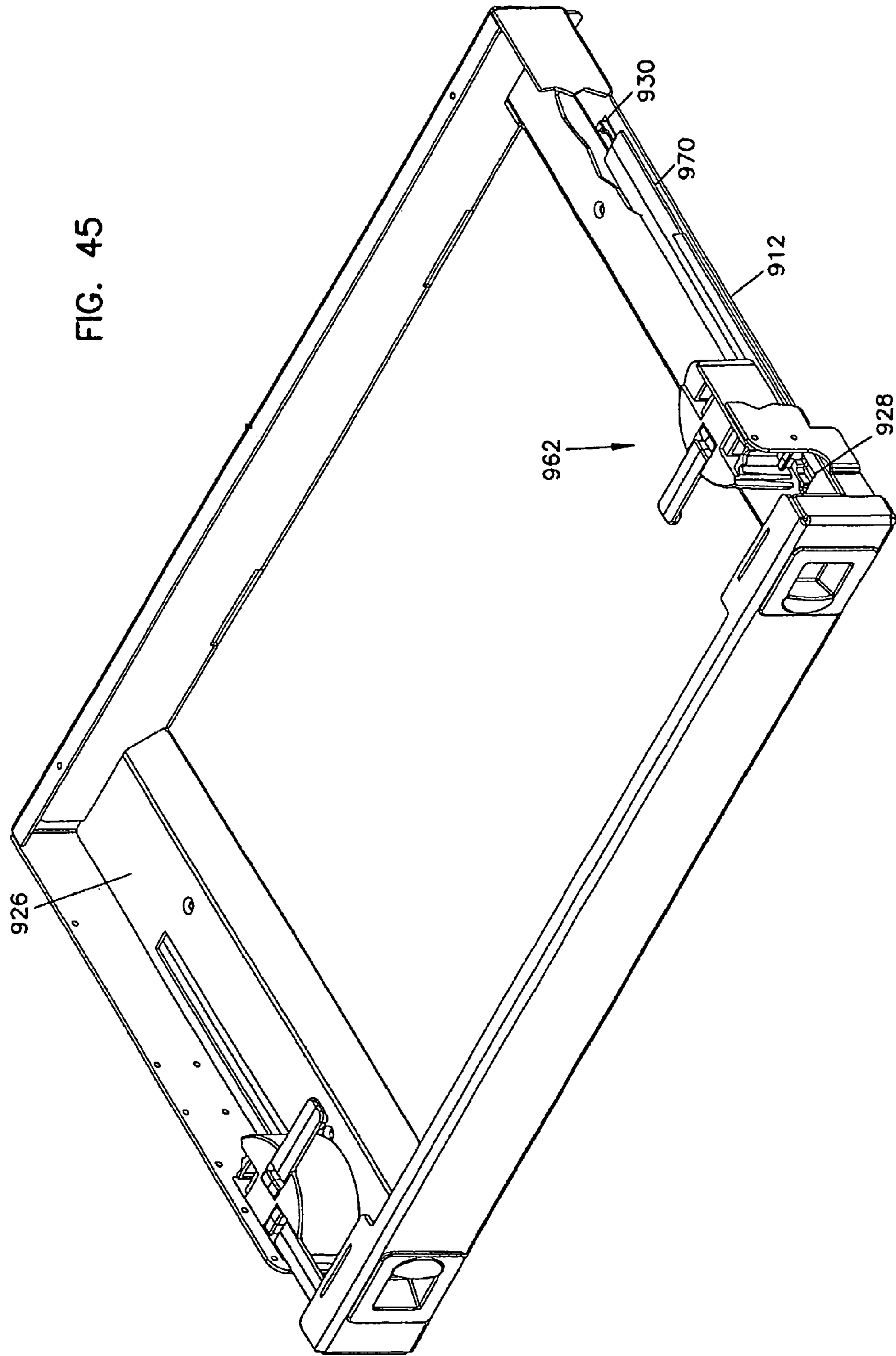


FIG. 46

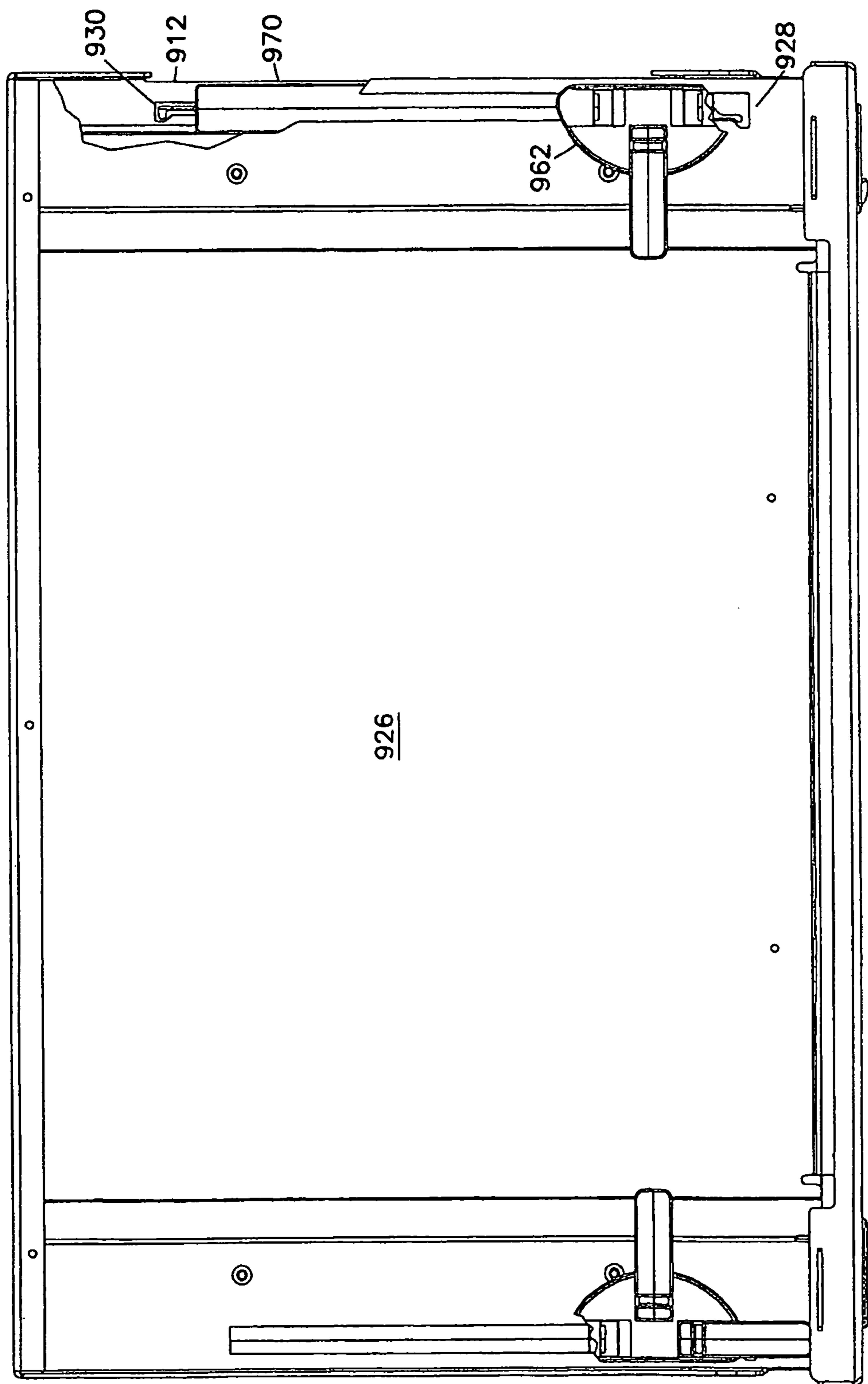


FIG. 47

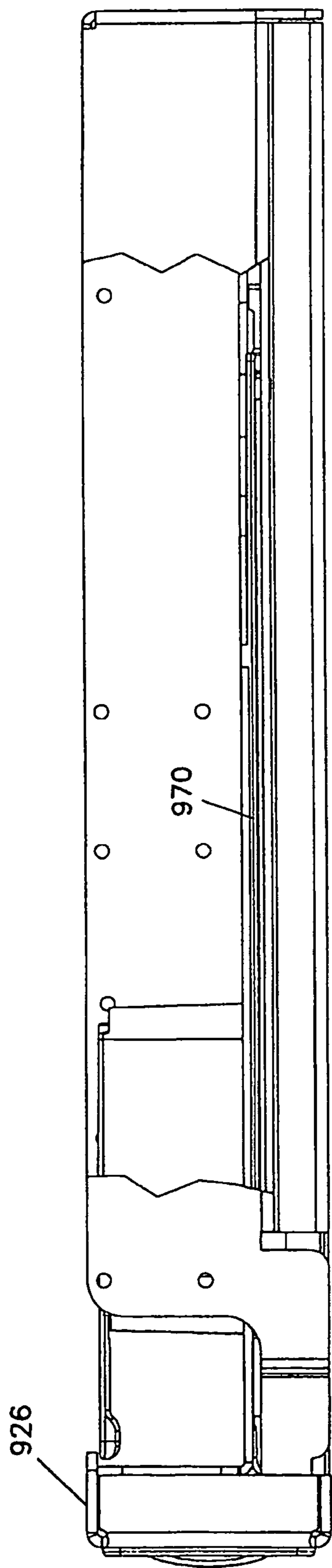


FIG. 48

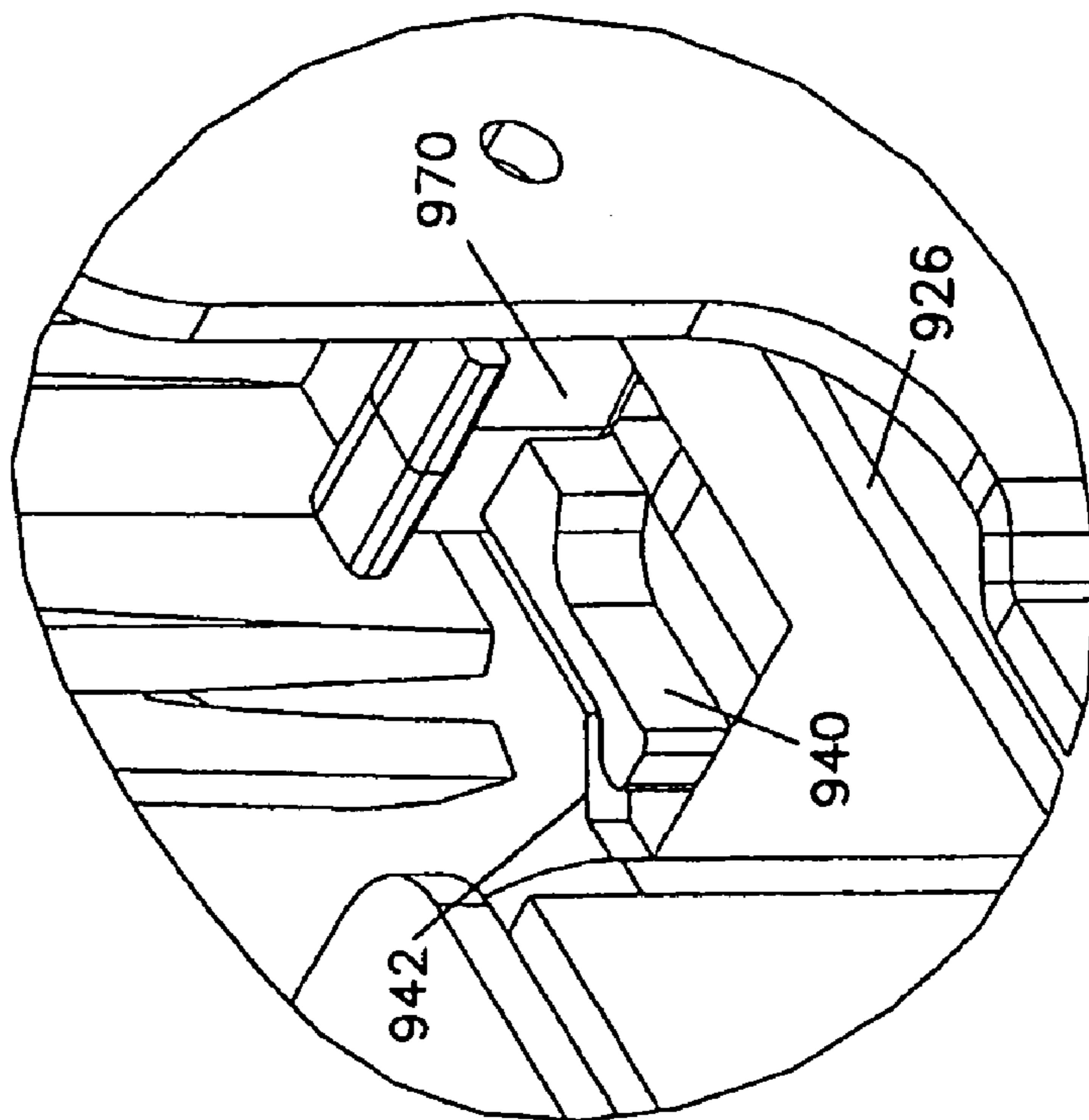
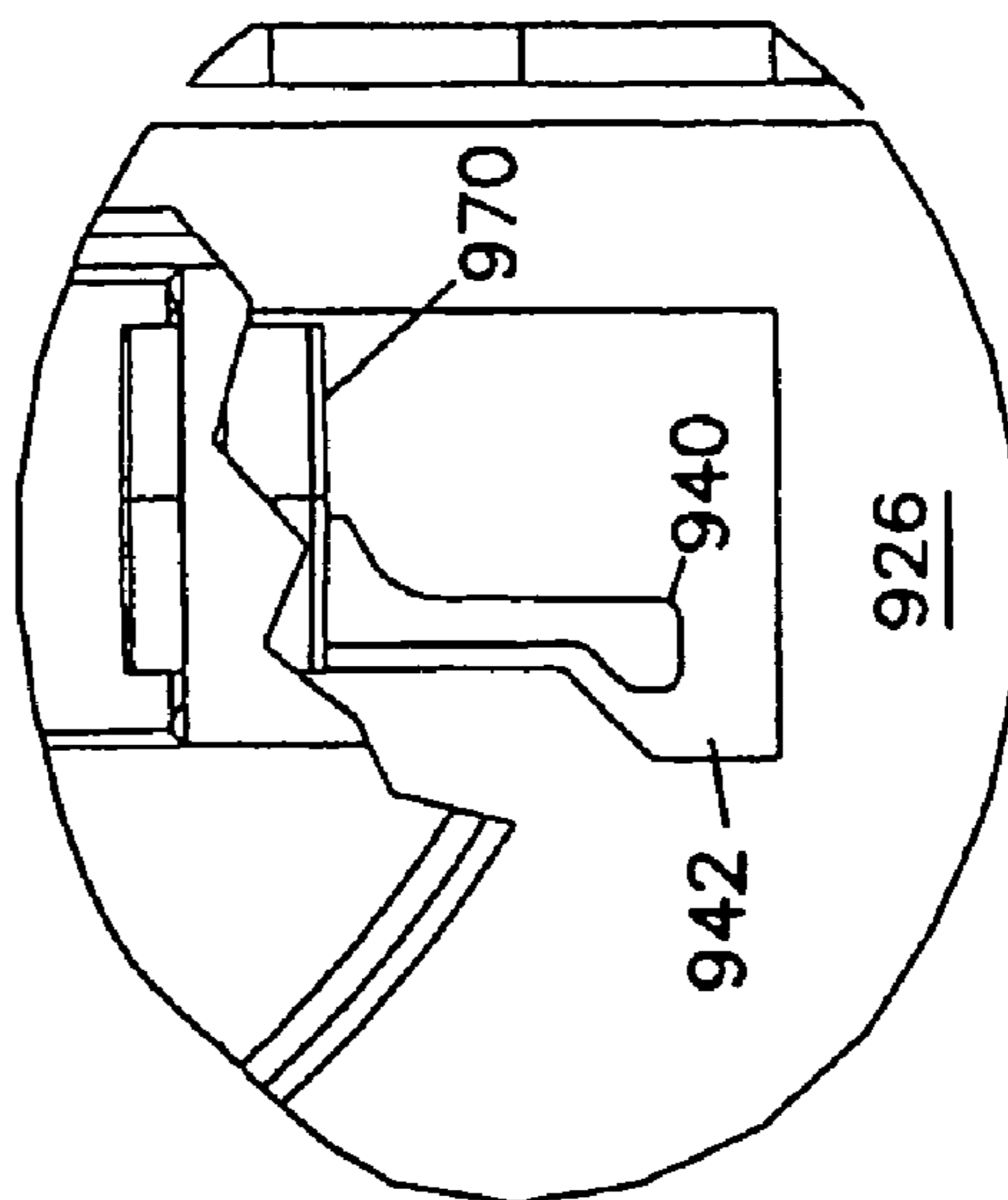


FIG. 49



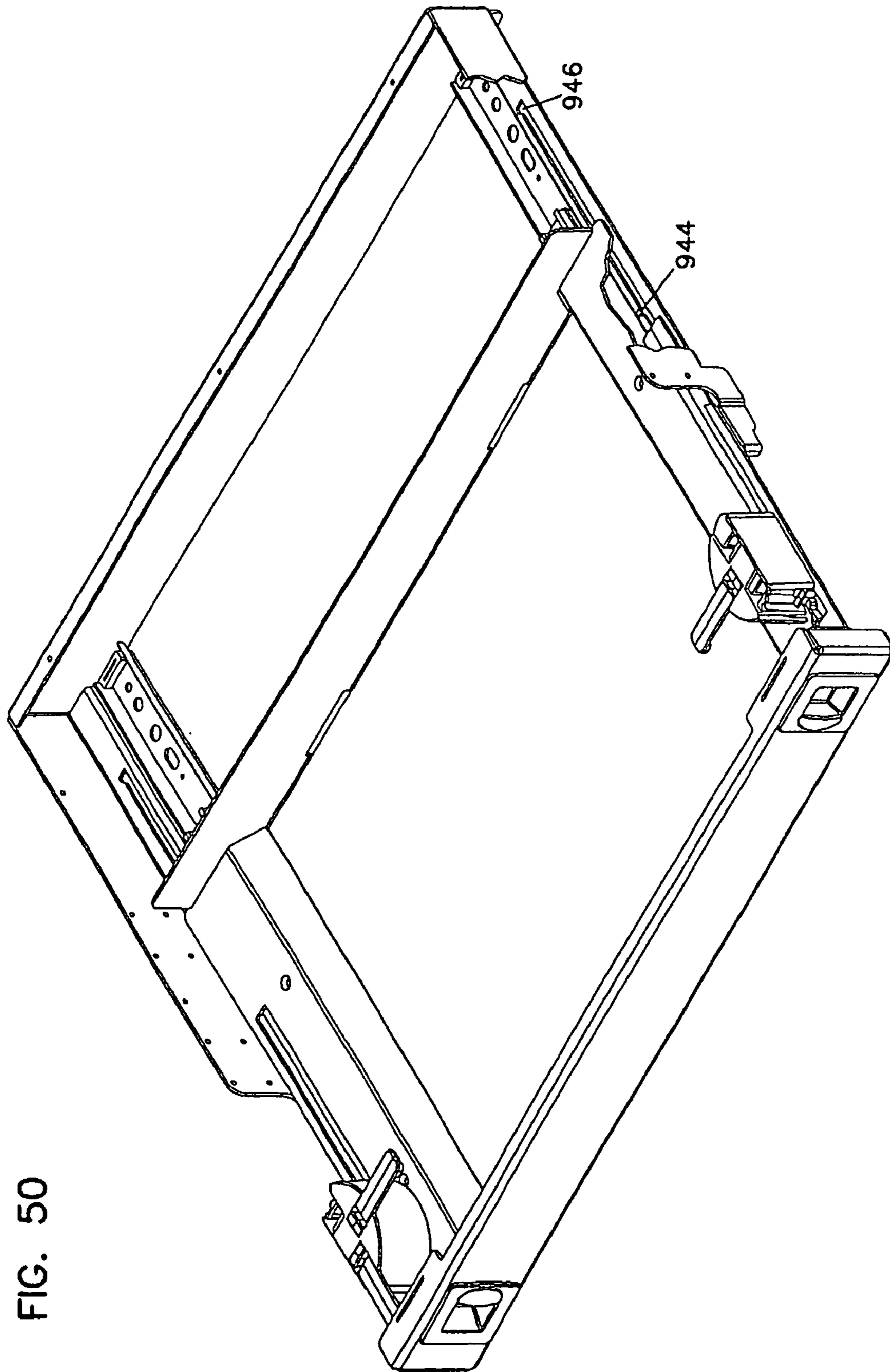


FIG. 50

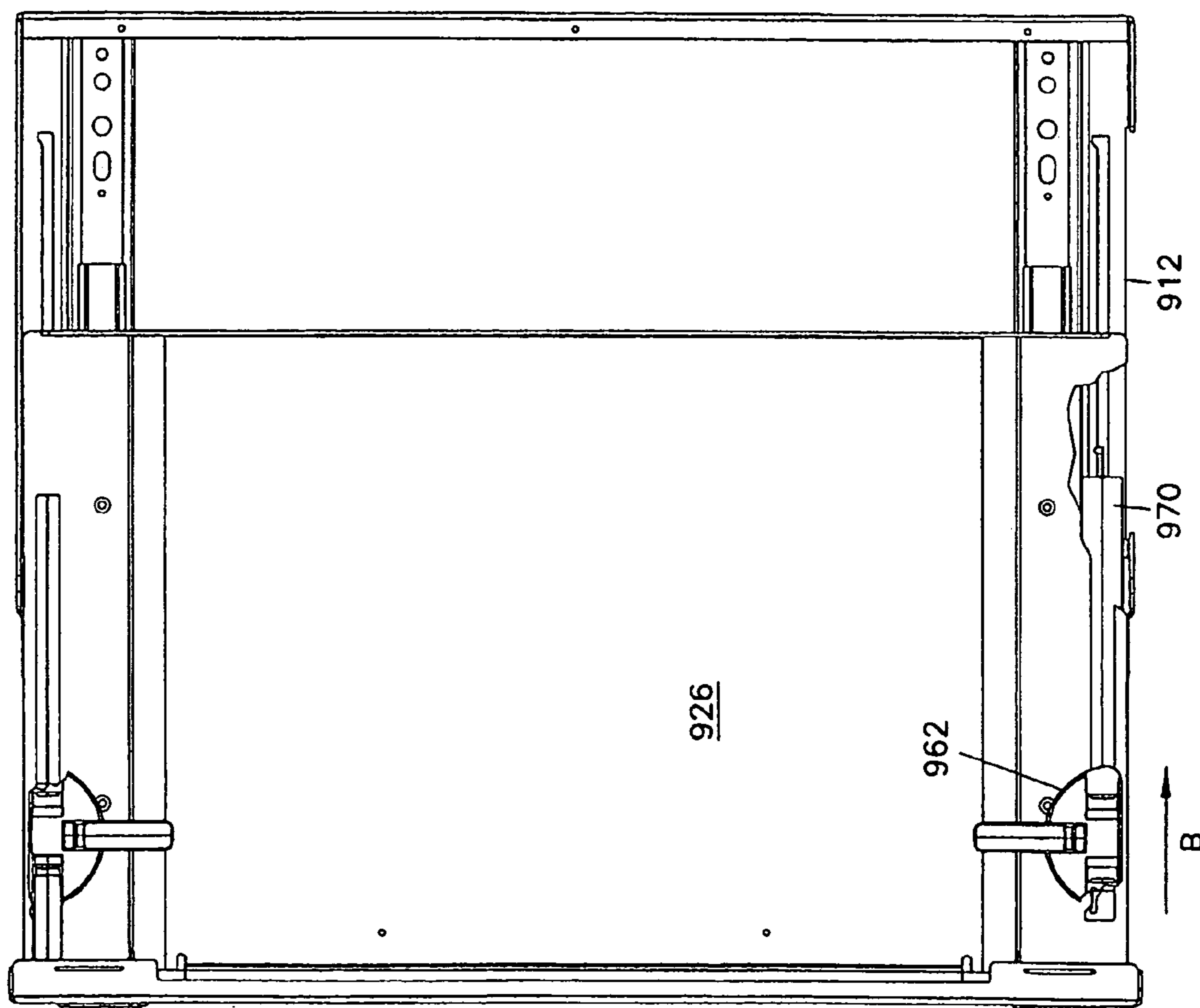


FIG. 51

FIG. 52

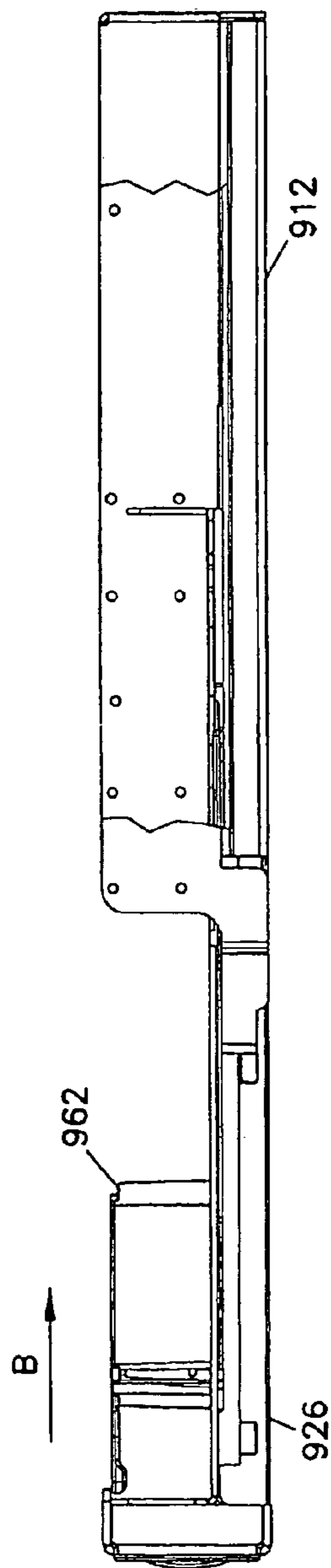


FIG. 53

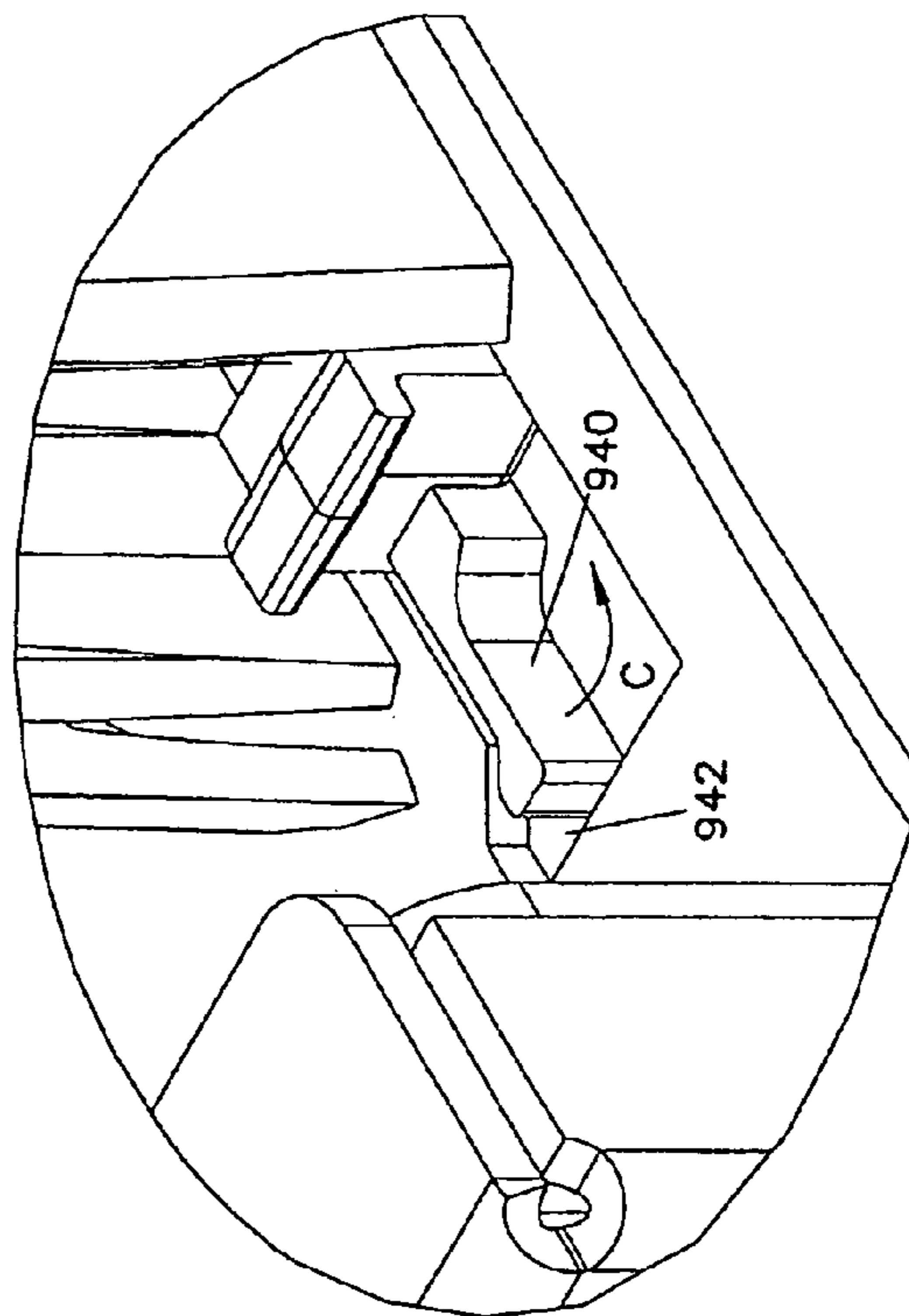
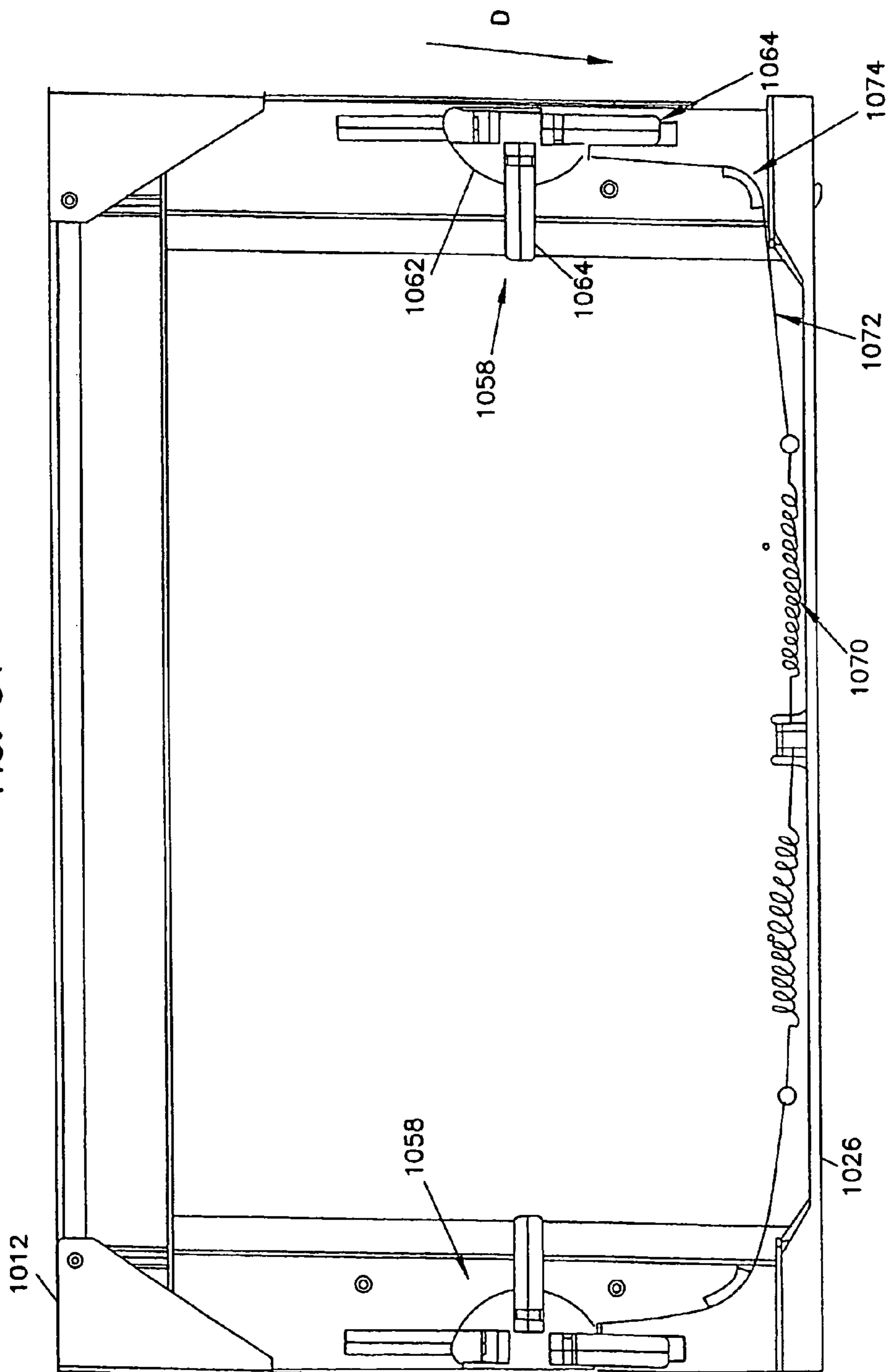


FIG. 54



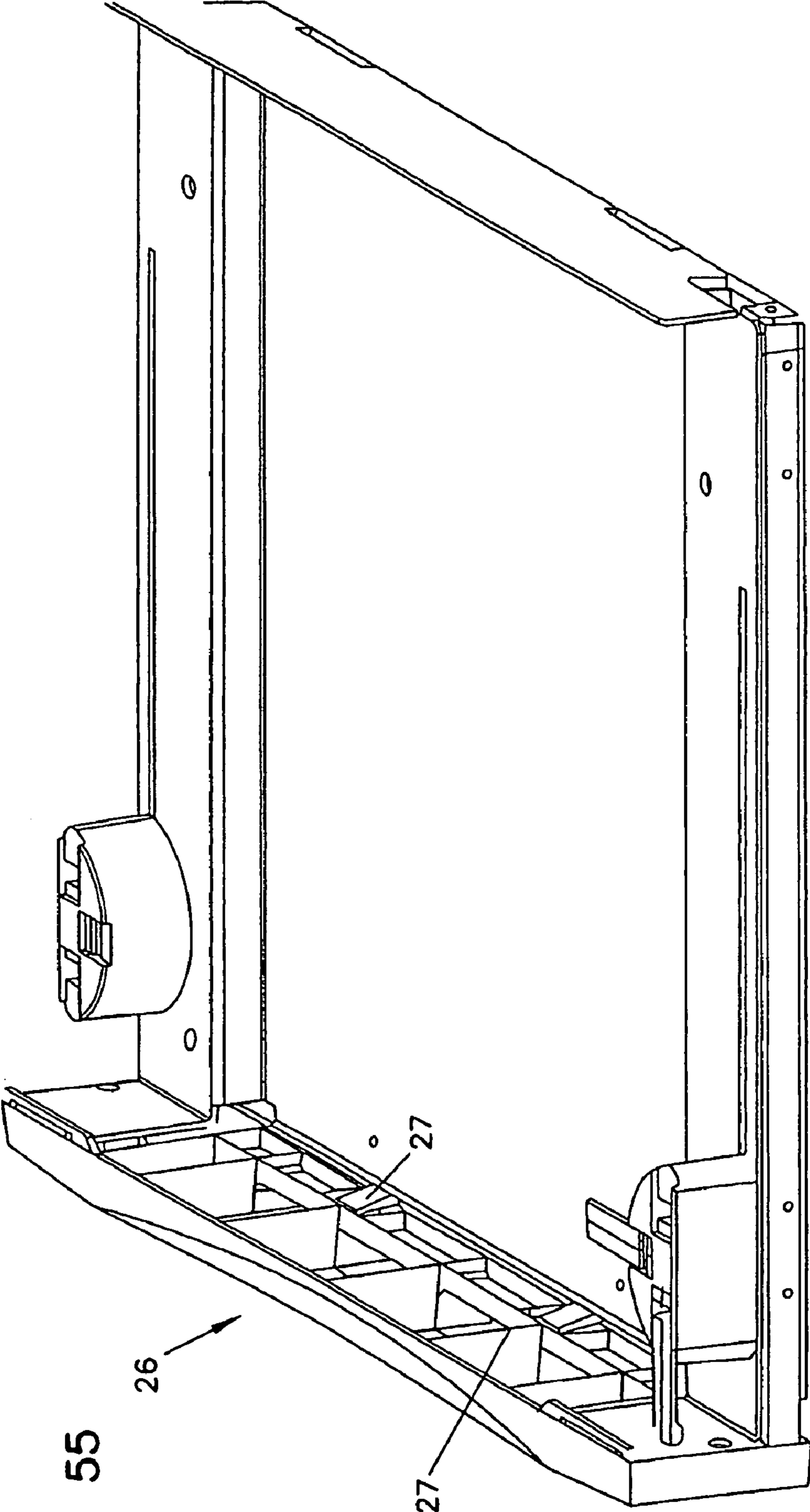
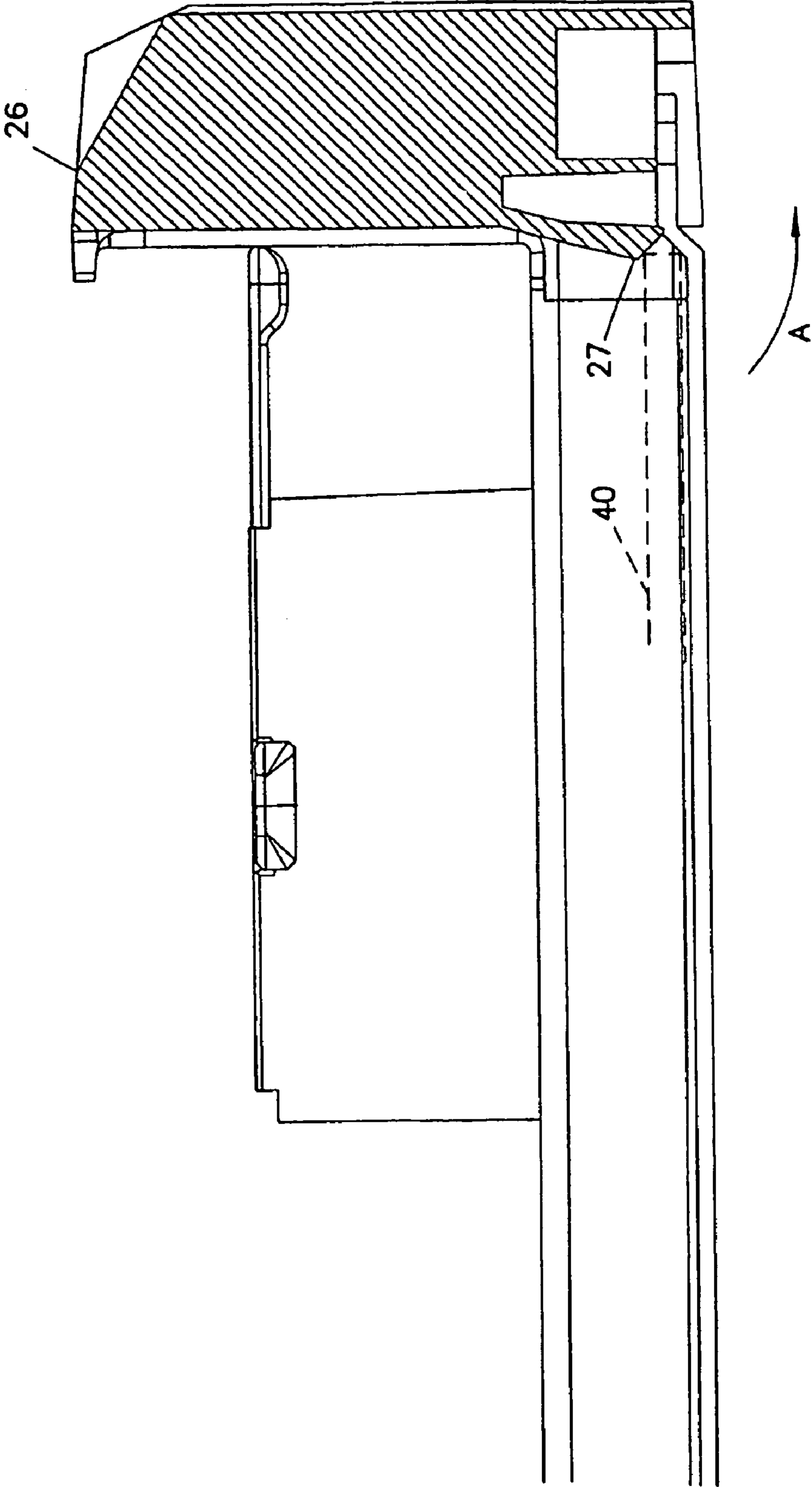


FIG. 55

FIG. 56



CABLE MANAGEMENT PANEL WITH SLIDING DRAWER

RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a continuation of application Ser. No. 12/291,351, filed Nov. 6, 2008 now U.S. Pat. No. 7,664,361; which is a continuation of application Ser. No. 11/891,638, filed Aug. 10, 2007, now U.S. Pat. No. 7,463,811; which is a continuation of application Ser. No. 11/492,304, filed Jul. 25, 2006 now U.S. Pat. No. 7,302,154; which is a continuation of application Ser. No. 10/894,898, filed Jul. 20, 2004, now U.S. Pat. No. 7,120,348; which is a continuation of application Ser. No. 10/306,816, filed Nov. 26, 2002, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,968,111; which is a continuation of application Ser. No. 09/649,398, filed Aug. 28, 2000, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,504,988; which is a continuation-in-part of application Ser. No. 09/490,379, filed Jan. 24, 2000, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,438,310; which applications are herein incorporated by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is concerned with management of optical fiber cables. The management device of the present invention has particular application in the telecommunications industry with respect to storage and/or connection of optical fiber cables with other cables and devices.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Cable termination, splice and storage devices are known including, for example, devices shown in U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,792,203 and 5,946,440, both issued to ADC Telecommunications, Inc. Both of these patents concern devices with moveable trays for storage and management of the optical fiber cables. U.S. Pat. No. 5,066,149, also issued to ADC Telecommunications, Inc., concerns a cable management device including slideable drawers each including a cable slack take-up mechanism.

When moving the trays or drawers, unnecessary or excessive displacement of the optical fiber cables is undesirable. As the optical fiber cables are displaced, they are subject to bending and other forces. Bending of the fibers can cause attenuation and loss of signal strength. As a fiber bends, the fiber can also break, resulting in a loss of transmission through the fiber.

There is a continued need in the art for further cable management devices which address such concerns in the telecommunications industry as ease of use, size, reliability, cost, and protection of the fibers.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A cable management panel includes a chassis, and at least one drawer slideably mounted within the chassis. The drawer is slideable between a first position with the drawer fully inserted within the chassis and a second position with the drawer extended from the interior of the chassis. An access location allows entry and exit of optical fiber cables into a side of the chassis and the drawer. One aspect of the present invention includes a fiber take-up mechanism including a push member slideably mounted on the drawer and further slideably mounted relative to the chassis. The push member is moveable from a first position on the drawer toward a second position on the drawer which is forward of the first position as the drawer is moved from the second position to the first position.

One aspect of the push member includes a trough section or retaining optical fiber cables. The trough section may include a flared end for further cable protection. The push member may include a cover over a portion of the trough section for further retaining optical fiber cables. Preferably the push member including the trough section includes a curved shape.

A further aspect of the push member preferably includes an upper retention member for retaining optical fiber cables with the push member during use. Preferably the retention member includes a projecting tab.

The drawer preferably receives a drop-in plate including cable storage or cable connection structure for cables entering the panel. In one embodiment, the drop-in plates latch to the drawer.

Another aspect of the push member preferably includes a control mechanism for controlling movement of the push member between the first and second positions as the drawer is moved between the second and first positions. In one preferred embodiment, the control mechanism moves the push member in synchronized movement with movement of the drawer relative to the chassis.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a cable management panel or module in accordance with the present invention, shown with one of the drawers in the open position, and shown without the tray insert;

FIG. 2 is a top view of the cable management panel of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a side perspective view of the cable management panel of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3A is a cross-sectional side view through a portion of the chassis showing the retention system of the take-up mechanism;

FIG. 3B is a further cross-sectional view of a portion of the take-up mechanism along lines 3B-3B of FIG. 3A.

FIG. 4 is a partially exploded view of the left side of the cable management panel as shown in FIG. 3;

FIG. 5 is a partially exploded perspective view of the right side of the cable management panel of FIG. 1;

FIG. 6 is a top view of the cable management panel of FIG. 2 with a first tray insert positioned in the drawer;

FIG. 7 is a perspective view of the tray insert of FIG. 6, with two of the storage trays in flipped positions;

FIG. 8 is a top view of the tray insert of FIG. 7;

FIG. 9 is a front view of the tray insert of FIG. 7;

FIG. 10 is a side view of the tray insert of FIG. 7;

FIG. 11 is an enlarged perspective view of one of the stacks of storage trays;

FIG. 12 is an exploded view of one of the stacks of storage trays with some of the trays removed for viewing;

FIG. 13 is an enlarged exploded view of the storage trays of FIG. 12;

FIGS. 14A and B show a second embodiment of a tray insert usable in the cable management panel of FIG. 1;

FIGS. 15A and B show a third embodiment of a tray insert usable in the cable management panel of FIG. 1;

FIGS. 16A and B show a fourth embodiment of a tray insert usable in the cable management panel of FIG. 1;

FIGS. 17A and B show a fifth embodiment of a tray insert usable in the cable management panel of FIG. 1;

FIGS. 18A-E show the drawer in various positions during opening from the closed position of FIG. 18A through the nearly completely open position of FIG. 18E, the completely open position being shown in FIG. 2;

FIGS. 19A-D show the drawer in various positions during closing from the completely open position of FIG. 2 through the nearly completely closed position of FIG. 19D, just prior to being placed in the fully closed position of FIG. 18A;

FIG. 20 is a perspective view of an alternative cable management panel including a drawer with a modified take-up mechanism including further cable retention members;

FIG. 21 shows the drawer of the cable management panel of FIG. 20 in the extended position, with the cable retention tabs extended upwardly to permit access to the cables in the trough section;

FIG. 22 is a perspective view of the push member of the take-up mechanism of FIGS. 20 and 21;

FIG. 23 shows the push member of FIG. 22 with the cable retention tabs lifted upwardly;

FIG. 24 is a cross-section along lines 24-24 of FIG. 22;

FIG. 25 is a cross-section along lines 25-25 of FIG. 23;

FIG. 26 shows the push member of FIG. 22 without the cable retention tabs;

FIG. 27 is a top view of the push member of FIG. 26;

FIG. 28 is a perspective view of a further modified take-up mechanism to the take-up mechanism shown in FIGS. 20-27;

FIGS. 29-31 show perspective, top, and side views of a further alternative cable management panel including a drawer with a modified take-up mechanism including a wheel, with portions of the panel removed for viewing;

FIG. 32 is an enlarged portion of the modified take-up mechanism of FIGS. 29-31;

FIGS. 33-35 show perspective, top, and side views of the cable management panel of FIGS. 29-32, with the drawer partially opened;

FIG. 36 is an enlarged portion of the take-up mechanism in the partially opened position of FIGS. 33-35;

FIGS. 37-39 show perspective, top, and side views of the cable management panel of FIGS. 29-32, with the drawer fully opened;

FIGS. 40 and 41 are enlarged perspective and side views of the take-up mechanism of the fully opened drawer of FIGS. 37-39;

FIG. 41A shows a perspective view of the extension of the take-up mechanism of FIGS. 29-41;

FIGS. 42-44 show exploded perspective, side, and top views of a further modified take-up mechanism including a rack and pinion instead of a wheel as shown in FIGS. 29-41;

FIGS. 45-53 show various views of a further alternative cable management panel including a drawer with a modified take-up mechanism including chassis and drawer detents for controlling movement of the push member;

FIG. 54 shows a top view of a further alternative cable management panel including a drawer with a modified take-up mechanism including a spring biased push member;

FIG. 55 shows a latch for latching the drop-in plate within the drawer; and

FIG. 56 is a cross-sectional view of the latch of FIG. 55.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Referring now to the several drawing figures in which identical elements are numbered identically, a cable management panel or module 10 according to the present invention is shown. Panel 10 includes a frame or chassis 12 with side brackets 14 for mounting to a rack, cabinet, enclosure, or other mounting fixture. Chassis 12 includes a front 16, opposed sides 18, and a rear 20. Sides 18 each include cable access openings 22 for cables entering or exiting chassis 12.

Chassis 12 further includes one or more drawers 26 which slide horizontally during use to access the interior of a selected drawer.

Each drawer 26 includes cable management structure, as will be described more fully below. Examples of cable management structure include devices for storing the cables or connecting the cables to other cables and/or fiber optic devices, such as attenuators, couplers, switches, wave divisions multiplexers (WDMs), splitters/combiners, or splices. Drawers 26 are slideable relative to chassis 12 via two drawer slides 28 on opposite sides of chassis 12. Each drawer 26 includes two latches 30 for latching the drawer 26 in the closed position. Each latch 30 engages a side hole 32 in side 18 of chassis 12. Each drawer 26 further includes a front 32, a rear 34, and a base 36. Open sides 37 allow for cable entry and exit and prevent cable damage during sliding movement of drawers 26 when accessing the cables and the connectors or other devices in the drawer. Take-up mechanisms are provided, as described below, for managing the cables during sliding movement of drawers 26. The cable guides and radius limiters described below are provided so as to protect the cables and limit bends from going below the minimum bend radius of the cable. The cable retention tabs also described below help keep the cables in place once positioned under the tabs by the user.

Each drawer interior is sized for receiving cable management and/or distribution structure. When the drawer is in the closed position, the cables and management or distribution structures in the interior are protected. In the preferred embodiments, the structure can be conveniently mounted on a tray insert which drops into the interior of drawer 26. This allows for convenient structuring of drawer 26 to serve one or more desired functions in module 10. FIG. 6 shows one preferred embodiment of a tray insert or drop-in plate 40 in accordance with the present invention. The tray inserts can be customized as the particular needs vary for panel 10. Alternatively, each drawer 26 can be assembled with the components mounted directly to the drawer bottom. Preferably, the individual drawers 26 are constructed as stackable and linkable sub-modules 10a, each with a sub-chassis 12a. Such modularity also allows for ease of use for a variety of different needs for the cable management system. Brackets 14 link the sub-chassis 12a together. FIG. 6 also shows one example cable pathway 90 into panel 10.

Referring again to FIGS. 1-5, base 36 of drawer 26 includes side plates 42, a central bottom 44, and an angled transition section 46 on each side of bottom 44 connecting to side plates. Base 36 further includes a key 48 adjacent to front 32. One or more slots 50 are positioned in rear 34. Key 48 and slots 50 are usable in mounting tray inserts 40 to drawer 26. Fasteners (screws) in holes 49 may also be used to secure tray inserts 40 to drawers 26. Alternatively, one or more latches 27 can be used to releasably mount each tray insert 40 to drawer 26, as shown in FIGS. 55 and 56. Each latch 27 is manually moveable to allow release of tray insert 40, by moving latch 27 in the direction of arrow A. To mount tray insert 40 to drawer 26, tray insert 40 automatically moves latch 27 in the direction of arrow A, thereby permitting convenient assembly.

Side plates 42 of base 36 of drawers 26 include longitudinal slots 52. Side plates 42 also mount to one end of each of slides 28 with fasteners through holes 43. Inwardly projecting side ledges 51 of chassis 12 each include longitudinal slots 53 and side notches 54, 56 which cooperate with a take-up mechanism 58 on each side of drawer 26 for managing optical fibers entering and exiting cable management panel 10. Side ledges 51 also mount to the opposite ends of drawer slides 28 with fasteners through holes 55. Side plates 42 are configured as

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raised surfaces or ledges which are positioned over drawer slides **28** and portions of take-up mechanism **58**. Slots **52**, **53** vertically overlap when drawer **26** is closed.

Take-up mechanism **58** includes a push member or radius limiter **62**, preferably shaped as a half-moon or semi-circle, each with the curved portion **86** facing inwardly, and the planar portion **88** facing outwards. Radius limiter **62** includes a plurality of tabs **64** for cable retention. In one preferred embodiment, tabs **64** include snaps **66** which are received in slots **68** of radius limiter **62**. Extending rearwardly and beneath radius limiter **62** is an extension **70** which includes a flexible rear tab **72**, and a lower tab **73**, both for receipt in slot **53**. Tab **73** includes lips **75** to snap mount to slot **53**. Extension **70** also snaps to an underside of radius limiter **62** with snaps **74** which are slideably positioned in slots **52**. Radius limiter **62** is therefore moveably mounted relative to chassis **12** and drawer **26**. Radius limiter **62** acts as a guide for cables passing through access opening **22** on each side of drawer **26**.

Retention structure is provided with take-up mechanism **58** to limit movement of radius limiter **62** to selected times for better control and positioning of the cables. As will be described below, projection **72a** of tab **72** resides in notch **56** to allow drawer **26** to slide rearwardly relative to radius limiter **62**, during closing. Slot **52** eventually bottoms out and moves projection **72a** out of notch **56**, thereby causing radius limiter **62** to move rearwardly with drawer **26**. Notch **54** also retains radius limiter **62** relative to chassis **12** during initial opening of drawer **26**. Each notch **54**, **56** includes a ramped surface **54a**, **56a** allowing release of radius limiter **62** as drawer **26** pulls or pushes on projection **72a** during use.

Referring now to FIGS. **6-14**, tray insert **40** includes a base **100** including a front notch **102**, and rear projections **104**. Front notch **102** receives key **48**, and projections **104** are received by slots **50** in drawer **26**. Side edges **106** are positioned adjacent transition sections **46** of base **36** of drawer **26**. Base **100** also includes two upwardly extending rear radius limiters **108**. Each radius limiter **108** includes a main arcuate section **110**, a plurality of outwardly extending retention tabs **112**, and a lower notch **114** which is positioned over transition section **46** and side plate **42** of base **36** of drawer **26**. Cables entering drawer **26** extend from side access opening **22**, to take-up mechanism **58** to rear radius limiter **108**. FIG. **6** shows take-up mechanism **58** cooperating with radius limiter **108** for guiding cable **90** into drawer **26**.

Base **100** of example tray insert **40** further includes one or more stacks **116** of rotatably mounted or flippable storage trays **118**. Four stacks **116** are shown for insert **40**. The trays **118** on the right and left sides flip in opposite directions as shown in FIG. **9**. By flipping the trays **118**, access to the underneath trays in each stack is provided.

Each tray **118** includes a planar base **120**, surrounded by an outer peripheral edge **122**. Inwardly extending tabs **124** are provided for cable management. A center spool **126** extends upwardly from base **118**, and includes a plurality of cable retention tabs **128**. Tray **118** further includes two entry/exit points **130**. Cable retention tabs **131** are positioned at each entry/exit point **130**. Finger tabs **132** can be grasped by a user's finger to rotate each tray **118** about its rotation axis **133**. Each tray **118** in stack **116** is rotatably mounted to base **100** with a stepped tray mount **140**. Tray **118** includes two projections **142**, each having an outwardly projecting pivot post or pin **144** and an outwardly projecting retention tab or bump **146**. Tray mount **140** includes opposed and staggered mounting plates or locations **150** each having holes **154** for receiving pins **144** of trays **118**. The staggering, or stair-step, allows for identical trays to be flipped from a horizontal position upwardly so as to allow user access to each tray.

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A detent arrangement is provided for holding the trays in the flipped positions. Mounting plates **150** each include a notch or groove **156** sized for receiving tab **146** of each projection **142** to maintain each tray in an upward pivoted position when placed there by the user. The trays **118** stay pivoted upwardly to allow easy and hands-free access to the tray underneath the flipped trays. Notches **156** and tabs **146** act parallel to the rotation axis of each tray **118**. Preferably, trays **118** and tray mount **140** are made from plastic. Pins **144** preferably snap into holes **154** to mount trays **118** to tray mount **140**. Cable enters tray **118** at one of points **130**, and is wound around spool **126** an appropriate number of times. The cable then exits tray **118** at one of the points **130**. In the example shown, one cable **90** is stored per tray **118** (See FIGS. **6** and **8**).

Referring now to FIGS. **14A** and **B**, a second preferred embodiment of a tray insert **240** is shown including some common parts as insert **40**, and some different parts. Insert **240** includes a similar planar base **100** with front notch **102** and rear projections **104**. Base **100** of tray insert **240** also includes rear radius limiters **108**. Base **100** is similar in profile, but may have different structure, for example, holes, for mounting the various cable management devices to tray insert **240**. Tray insert **240** also includes two front stacks **116** of trays **118**. Insert **240** differs in that it also includes side radius limiters **242** and retention tabs **243** positioned on opposite sides of base **100** adjacent to stacks **116** of trays **118**. Base **100** further includes adapters **244** for connection to fiber optic connectors. Adapters **244** are preferably movably mounted to base **100** in sliding adapter arrangement **250**. Lever arm **252** allows a slide assembly **254** to be lifted upwardly to provide easier access to adapters **244**. Each pair of adapters **244** is separately movable with each respective lever **252**. Further details of an example of a sliding adapter arrangement like that shown is described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,497,444, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference. Other adapter arrangements are possible, including arrangements which do not include movable adapters. Tray insert **240** also includes a wave division multiplexer arrangement with wave division multiplexers (WDMs) **260** connectable to the cables in drawer **26**. Cables enter tray insert **240** for connection to adapters **244**, and further connection to WDMs **260**. Excess cable lengths can be stored in trays **118** and/or wound past limiters **242**.

Referring now to FIGS. **15A** and **B**, a third preferred embodiment of a tray insert **340** is shown including rear radius limiting spools **342** with tabs **343** and an optical service channel device (OSC) **344**. Sliding adapter assemblies like assemblies **250** can be provided on base **100** at region **346**. Cables enter tray insert **340** for connection to OSC **344**, and adapters (if provided). Excess cable is stored in trays **118**. Cable passes by spools **342** or limiters **242** to take up the excess and to prevent excessive bending or stress on the fibers.

Referring now to FIGS. **16A** and **B**, a fourth preferred embodiment of a tray insert **440** is shown. A plurality of sliding adapter arrangements **250** are shown on one portion of base **100**. Attenuators **442** are shown on a second portion of base **100**. Fibers enter and exit tray insert **440** and are connected through adapters **244** and attenuators **442**. Radius limiters **444**, **446** with tabs **448**, **450** are provided for assisting management of the cables.

Referring now to FIGS. **17A** and **B**, a fifth preferred embodiment of a tray insert **550** is shown. Sliding adapter arrangements **250** are positioned in a central portion of base **100**, and a plurality of radius limiters **542** with tabs **543** are positioned to provide variable and selectable pathways for

storage of the cables on insert **550**. Adapters **244** can each be provided with a built-in attenuator.

FIGS. **18A-E** and **19A-D** illustrate in combination with FIG. **2** the positioning of take-up mechanism **58** during use to prevent undue stress, pulling or pushing on the cables (optical fibers) entering and exiting module **10** through side access openings **22**. Radius limiter **62** and tab **72** are held in place relative to chassis **12** by rear notch **54** until drawer **26** has moved forward a sufficient amount, such as when a rear end **80** of slot **52** engages the connection between radius limiter **62** and extension **70** (compare FIGS. **18C** and **18D**). At that point, radius limiter **62** moves with drawer **26** toward the open position.

In the present example, drawer **26** and radius limiter **62** stop moving with respect to chassis **12** when lower tab **73** reaches a front end **81** of slot **53** and tab **72** is positioned in front notch **56**. Alternatively, drawer slides **28** can limit the sliding extension of drawer **26**. As shown in FIG. **2**, drawer **26** is now in the completely open position.

Referring now to FIGS. **19A-D**, front notch **56** maintains radius limiter **62** in position relative to chassis **12** while drawer **26** begins rearward movement during closing of drawer **26**. As shown in FIGS. **19B** and **4**, engagement of a front end **82** of slot **52** with the connection between radius limiter **62** and extension **70** causes rearward movement of radius limiter **62** with drawer **26** to the closed position shown in FIG. **18A**.

In the example module **10**, two take-up mechanisms **58** are provided, one for each side access opening **22**. For ease of manufacturing, the same extension **70** and radius limiter **62** are used for each mechanism. Radius limiter **62** is flipped about a vertical axis when used to assemble the take-up mechanism on the opposite side of drawer **26**. Tabs **64** are placed in the flipped radius limiter **62** to appropriately retain cables positioned around radius limiter **62**. For a similar reason, trays **118** can be mounted on either side of drawer **26**. Trays **118** are symmetrical about a center axis **145**.

The configuration of the interior of drawer **26** can vary as the desired functions for panel **10** vary. The examples of FIGS. **6-17A** and **B** are provided to show some of the variations possible.

FIGS. **20** and **21** show a modified panel **510** including a modified take-up mechanism **558**. FIGS. **22-27** show further details of the modified take-up mechanism **558**. Take-up mechanism **558** includes a push member or radius limiter **562** which functions in a similar manner as radius limiter **62** noted above. Radius limiter **562** includes a trough section **570** which cooperates with curved portion **586** of radius limiter **562** and tabs **564** to assist with cable retention during use. In a similar manner as for module **10**, tabs **564** include snaps **566** which snap into slots **568**. Radius limiter **562** mounts in a similar manner to drawer **512** and chassis **526** as noted above for take-up mechanism **58** including the push member **62** so as to assist with cable management for cables entering at opening **522** of chassis **526**. A similar arrangement (not shown) is positioned on the left side of drawer **512**.

Trough section **570** includes a base **572** and an outer wall **574**. Outer wall **574** is curved in a similar manner as curved portion **586** of radius limiter **562**. The curved shape directs cables from the side of module **510**, toward a rear of drawer **512**. Preferably, trough section **570** includes a trumpeted or flared end **576**, along the U-shape to avoid exposing the cables to sharp edges which may cause damage to the cables if tension is applied to the cables and the cables are bent below the minimum bend radius. Push member **562** is configured for use on the right side of **512**. A mirror image of push member **562** can be used on the left side of drawer **512**.

Outer wall **574** includes upper notches **578** for ends **565** of tabs **564**. Once tabs **564** are snapped with snaps **566** into slots **568**, tabs **564** are retained with radius limiter **562**. Tabs **564** form a cover over a portion of trough **570** to retain the cables. In the example embodiment of FIGS. **20-27**, a cable area **580** has a generally closed perimeter at tabs **564**, base **572** and outer wall **574** to define the cable retention area. While access openings can be provided for continuous cable access, the present embodiment is designed for selective access whereby tabs **564** can be partially lifted upwardly, as shown in FIGS. **21**, **23**, and **25**. Tabs **564** are moved in a direction of arrow **A** for each tab **564** to release a portion of snap **566**. Such movement allows for the pivoting upward movement of end **565** of tab **564**, thereby allowing easy access for cable positioning within trough **570**, or cable removal.

A modified radius limiter **662** is shown in FIG. **28**. Instead of moveable tabs **564**, radius limiter **662** includes fixed, opposed tabs **664**, **665** which allow cables to be manually placed in cable area **680** by positioning the cables around the openings defined by opposed tabs **664**, **665**.

The embodiments above seek to control movement of the radius limiter through the detent and notch mechanisms. Referring now to FIGS. **29-41**, a drawer **726** is slidably mounted to a chassis **712**, in a similar manner as drawer **26** and chassis **12**, described above. A base **736** of drawer **726** includes side plates **742**, each including a slot **752**. A take-up mechanism **758** includes a radius limiter **762**, of the type described above. It is to be appreciated that radius limiter **762** could include the various cable management features of radius limiters **562**, **662**, described above. Movement of radius limiter **762** is controlled with synchronized movement with drawer **726** with a linear bearing arrangement. An extension **770** mounts to radius limiter **762** through slot **752**. Extension **770** includes a rearward projection **772** including a rotatable wheel **774**, and an upwardly projecting tab **776**. Wheel **774** includes two rotating discs **775** covered by a resilient O-ring **777**.

Chassis **712** includes side ledges **751**. Rear projection **772** of extension **770** is positioned between one of side ledges **751** of chassis **712** and one of side plates **742** of drawer **726**. During slideable movement of drawer **726**, relative to chassis **712**, side plate **742** and side ledge **751** are moving in opposite directions relative to one another, with wheel **774** positioned therebetween. Radius limiter **762** thereby moves relative to chassis **712** at a reduced speed relative to drawer **726**. Because wheel **774** is in rolling engagement with both drawer **726** and chassis **712**, radius limiter **762** moves at one-half the speed of drawer **726**. The speed could be varied if a stepped wheel **774** was provided. In that case, drawer **726** would contact one diameter and chassis **712** would contact another diameter. Moving the limiter **762** at one-half the speed of drawer **726** is useful for cable protection.

Side ledges **751** each include a rear stop **753** and at least one forward ramp **754**. Two ramps **754a**, **b** are provided to assist with desired movement of radius limiter **762** when drawer **726** is opened. By referencing FIGS. **37-41**, front ramp **754a** prevents sliding of wheel **774** until wheel **774** is reengaged by side plate **742**. Rear ramp **754b** is positioned so that should drawer **726** not be fully opened wherein front ramp **754a** is not engaged, rear ramp **754b** holds wheel **774** until side plate **742** reengages. Side ledges **751** also include a front stop **756** to limit movement of radius limiter **762**.

Slot **752** includes enlarged area **760** for receipt of snaps **780** of extension **770** to snap extension **770** to radius limiter **762**. Once snaps **780** are positioned in enlarged areas **760**, extension **770** can be slid rearwardly for sliding relative movement relative to drawer **726**.

Referring now to FIGS. 42-44, a modified rear projection 872 is shown including two toothed wheels 874a, b. Each toothed wheel 874a, b includes opposed toothed discs 876 mounted for simultaneous rotation on opposite sides of extension member 873. The toothed wheels 874a, b are linked with bars 878 to maintain synchronization between toothed wheels 874a, b. During relative movement of drawer 826 and chassis 812, rear projection 872 moves at a reduced speed relative to drawer 826. Rear projection 872 and racks 879, 881 cause the radius limiter to move at one-half the speed of drawer 826. Different speeds can be achieved by using different sized discs 876 for engaging drawer 826 and chassis 812, respectively. The two toothed wheels 874a, b are provided to maintain synchronization when drawer 826 is pulled to the fully opened position wherein drawer 826 is not engaged with rear toothed wheel 874a.

Referring now to FIGS. 45-53, drawer 926 is provided with a front detent 928 which will overcome rear chassis detent 930 as drawer 926 is opened. This retains radius limiter 962 towards the front of drawer 926 as it is opened, keeping tension on the cables. The final rearward position of radius limiter 962 in the direction of arrow B will depend on the amount of slack in the cables. A front chassis detent (not visible) can be provided as in panel 10 for limiting the travel of radius limiter 962 forward relative to chassis 912. Further, the front chassis detent allows drawer 926 to move rearwardly before the radius limiter 962 moves rearwardly. Each detent includes a tab 940, 944, on extension 970 and a notch 942, 946.

Tension in the cables will pull tab 940 out of notch 942 in the direction of arrow C during opening. During closure of drawer 926, radius limiter 962 moves with drawer 926 (assuming no front chassis detent), thereby protecting the slack in the cables.

Referring now to FIG. 54, a further take-up mechanism 1058 is shown where radius limiter 1062 is slideably mounted to chassis 1012 and drawer 1026. A spring 1070 applies a bias to radius limiter 1062 to bias it toward a forward position in the direction of arrow D in drawer 1026. A cable 1072 extends from spring 1070 around tab 1074 to radius limiter 1062. When drawer 1026 is opened, radius limiter 1062 only moves forwardly enough to keep desired tension on the cables under tabs 1064.

The above specification, examples and data provide a complete description of the manufacture and use of the invention. Since many embodiments of the invention can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention, the invention resides in the claims hereinafter appended.

What is claimed is:

1. A cable management panel, comprising:

- a) a chassis having a front, a rear, and opposite sides;
- b) a drawer slidably mounted within the chassis, the drawer sliding between a first position and a second position, the drawer being farther from the rear of the chassis in the second position than in the first position; and
- c) a radius limiting member mounted to the drawer, the radius limiting member including:
 - i) a first portion having a curved vertical surface extending upward relative to a bottom of the drawer;
 - ii) a second portion having a curved vertical surface opposite the curved vertical surface of the first portion, the curved vertical surface of the second portion extending upward relative to the bottom of the drawer;
 - iii) a bottom portion extending between the first portion and the second portion, wherein the first portion, the second portion, and the bottom portion define a

U-shaped cable trough, wherein the curved vertical surface of the first portion, the curved vertical surface of the second portion and the bottom portion define first and second open ends of the U-shaped cable trough, the first open end of the U-shaped cable trough being directed toward a lateral side of the drawer, the second open end of the U-shaped trough being directed generally transversely thereto toward a rear of the drawer; and

- iv) a cable retention tab spaced vertically from the bottom portion, the cable retention tab extending between the first portion and the second portion, the cable retention tab having a first end and a second end, the first end being releasably connected to one of the first and second portions by a snap-fit connection;
- v) wherein the first portion, the second portion, the bottom portion, and the tab generally encloses a perimeter of the radius limiting member to define a cable retention area; and wherein selective access to the cable retention area is provided by lifting upward on a free end of the tab, the free end being defined by one of the first and second ends of the tab, the free end pivoting from a closed position to an open position to provide the selective access;
- vi) wherein one of the first and second portions of the radius limiting member defines a notch that receives the free end of the tab when the tab is in the closed position;
- vii) wherein the first open end of the U-shaped cable trough of the radius limiting member defines a cable entry/exit for cables placed within the cable retention area.

2. The cable management panel of claim 1, wherein the tab is a first tab, the radius limiting member including a second tab that provides selective access to the cable retention area.

3. The cable management panel of claim 2, wherein the first tab extends in a first direction and the second tab extends in a second direction transverse to the first direction.

4. The cable management panel of claim 1, wherein the cable entry/exit of the radius limiting member is defined by a flared end of the U-shaped trough.

5. The cable management panel of claim 1, wherein the chassis and the drawer define an access location that allows entry of optical fiber cable into at least one side of the chassis.

6. The cable management panel of claim 1, wherein the radius limiting member is slidably mounted to the drawer at one side of the drawer.

7. The cable management panel of claim 6, further including a control mechanism, sliding movement of the radius limiting member being synchronized relative to movement of the drawer by the control mechanism.

8. The cable management panel of claim 1, wherein the bottom of the drawer is defined by a removable bottom plate.

9. The cable management panel of claim 8, wherein the removable bottom plate includes a notch that engages a key provided on the drawer.

10. The cable management panel of claim 1, wherein the first end of the tab is releasably connected to the first portion of the radius limiting member by the snap-fit connection.

11. The cable management panel of claim 10, wherein the second end of the tab defines the free end.

12. The cable management panel of claim 1, wherein the second portion of the radius limiting member defines the notch that receives the free end of the tab when the tab is in the closed position.